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AND

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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

Napier's History of the Peninsular War.
8vo. Vol. II. Boone.

WE are enabled to indulge our readers with a few, but we trust interesting, extracts from the second volume of Lieutenant-Colonel Napier's History of the Peninsular War, and which will not be published till towards the end of the ensuing week.

The first volume closed with the death of Sir John Moore and the retreat from Coruña; the one before us opens with a brief political digression on the state of public opinion in Great Britain when apprised of this disaster. In a former review we recorded our dissent from the political opinions of the gallant author; nor should we again have paused to notice them, were it not for his unceasing—we had almost said unmanly—animosity to one who, unhappily for the welfare of this country and its literature, is no more: we should have thought that the correcting influence of time had done its work; but we have seldom witnessed, in the most excited periods, a stronger indulgence of acrimonious feeling than in the following extract:

"The effect produced in England by the unfortunate issue of Sir John Moore's campaign, was not proportionable to the importance of the subject. The people, trained to party politics, and possessing no real power to rebuke the folly of the cabinet, regarded disasters and triumphs with faction rather than with national feelings; and it was alike easy to draw the public attention from affairs of weight, and to fix it upon matters of little moment. In the beginning of 1809 the Duke of York's conduct being impeached, a parliamentary investigation followed; and to drag the private frailties of that prince before the world, was thought essential to the welfare of the country, when the incapacity which had caused England and Spain to mourn in tears of blood was left unprobed. An insular people only, who are protected by their situation from the worst evils of war, may suffer themselves to be thus deluded; but if an unfortunate campaign were to bring a devastating enemy into the heart of the country, the honour of a general, and the whole military policy of the cabinet, would no longer be considered as mere subjects for the exercise of a vile sophist's talents for misrepresentation. It is true that the ill success of the British arms was a topic upon which many orators in both houses of parliament expatiated with great eloquence; but the discussions were chiefly remarkable as examples of acute debating, without any knowledge of facts. The opposition speakers, eager to criminate the government, exaggerated the loss and distress of the retreat; and comprehending neither the movements nor the motives of Sir John Moore, urged several untenable accusations against their adversaries. The ministers, dissuited by personal feelings, did not all adopt the same ground of defence. Lord Castlereagh and

Lord Liverpool, passing over the errors of the cabinet, by which the general had been left only a choice of difficulties, asserted, and truly, that the advantages derived from the advance to Sahagun more than compensated for the losses in the subsequent retreat. Both those statesmen paid an honourable tribute to the merits of the commander; but Mr. Canning, unscrupulously resolute to screen Mr. Freyre, assented to all the erroneous statements of the opposition, and endeavoured with malignant dexterity to convert them into charges against the fallen general. Sir John Moore was, he said, answerable for the events of the campaign, whether the operations were glorious or distressful—whether to be admired or deplored, they were his own—for he had kept the ministers ignorant of his proceedings. Being pressed closely on that point by Mr. C. Hutchinson, Mr. Canning repeated this assertion. Not long afterwards, Sir John Moore's letters, written almost daily, and furnishing exact and copious information of all that was passing in the Peninsula, were laid before the house."

The injustice and cruelty of these observations, and coming from such a source, appeared to us, *primâ facie*, worthy of confutation; but the gallant colonel has himself happily saved us from the toil of reference to parliamentary reports, by a little sentence, which appears to us of easy and felicitous application to himself: it is from page 104, speaking of Marshal St. Cyr, and as follows: "*The injurious force with which personal feelings act upon the judgment is well known, or it might excite wonder that so good a writer and so able a soldier should advance such fallacies.*" How Mr. Canning thought and expressed himself on the subject of Sir John Moore's campaign, may be gathered from the following brief quotations of his parliamentary language, which chance has this moment laid our hands upon: he said, "For himself, as a humble individual of the government, and having a share in these transactions, the recollection would be a source of gratification which he should carry with him to the grave. If we had been obliged to quit Spain, we had left that country with fresh laurels blooming upon our brows; and whatever failure there had been, upon the whole, might be repaired." Again, in a subsequent debate, Mr. Canning declared, "that, considering Sir John Moore's advance in a military point, in his poor judgment he could not but think it a wise measure; but in every view which ennoble military objects by exalting military character, he was sure it was so."

To the military History of the Peninsular War we have no hesitation in affixing the impress of unreserved approbation: seldom have we risen from the perusal of a volume which has afforded us so much satisfaction. The author's faculty of description is admirable; we are possessed at once with his meaning, and almost seem to behold the movement of the troops, to be acquainted with the locale of the country, to feel the *certainis gaudia*, and enter with all the soldier's earnestness into his

observations on the strategy of the different commanders, and in general close with the conclusiveness of his arguments on the conduct of these ever-memorable campaigns. The arrangement is clear and perspicuous; the style and language, though peculiar, and perhaps sometimes bordering on affectation, come upon us with a freshness which in this book-making and book-mending age is quite delightful. The want of a national military classic, which might be placed in the hands of our English youth destined for the profession of arms, and which the wars of Marlborough and Eugene afforded so splendid an opportunity of furnishing, has long been felt; and this gap in the literature of the country is, we think, by the present publication, on the eve of being satisfactorily filled up. To officers of all ranks, from the subaltern to the commander, in garrison or in camp, these volumes should be a constant companion. Lieut.-Col. Napier pursues his way boldly and fearlessly, sparing neither friend nor foe; and perhaps some may deem his pen as keen, if not as polished, as his sword, and be led to fight their battles over again. To the world at large we recommend a perusal; and we are quite sure, that, when they become acquainted with the deep attainments of science, and the genius, requisite for those who follow the profession of arms, they will divest themselves of any lingering prejudice, and bestow their unqualified admiration on the British army.

The oft-repeated tale of Zaragosa's fall, which we select for our extract, is delineated simply as a military exploit, and, stripped of the trappings of the chronicler's fancy, becomes a subject of novel interest and reflection.

"The war being now carried into the streets of Zaragosa, the sound of the alarm-bell was heard over all quarters of the city; and the people, assembling in crowds, filled the houses nearest to the lodgements made by the French. Additional traverses and barricadoes were constructed across the principal streets; mines were prepared in the more open spaces; and the communications from house to house were multiplied, until they formed a vast labyrinth, of which the intricate windings were only to be traced by the weapons and the dead bodies of the defenders. The members of the junta, become more powerful from the cessation of regular warfare, with redoubled activity and energy urged the defence, but increased the horrors of the siege by a ferocity pushed to the very verge of frenzy. Every person, without regard to rank or age, who excited the suspicions of these furious men, or of those immediately about them, was instantly put to death; and amidst the noble bulwarks of war a horrid array of gibbets was to be seen, on which crowds of wretches were suspended each night, because their courage had sunk beneath the accumulating dangers of their situation, or because some doubtful expression or gesture of distress had been misconstrued by their barbarous chiefs. From the heights of the walls which he had conquered, Marshal

Lasnes contemplated this terrific scene; and judging that men so passionate and so prepared could not be prudently encountered in open battle, he resolved to proceed by the slow, but certain process of the mactack and the mine: and this was also in unison with the emperor's instructions. Hence from the 29th of January to the 2d of February, the efforts of the French were directed to the enlargement of their lodgements on the walls; and they succeeded, after much severe fighting and several explosions, in working forward through the nearest houses; but at the same time they had to sustain many counter-assaults from the Spaniards,—especially one, exceedingly fierce, made by a friar on the Capuchins' convent of the Trinity. It has been already observed that the crossing of the large streets divided the town into certain small districts, or islands of houses. To gain possession of these, it was necessary not only to mine, but to fight for each house. To cross the large intersecting streets, it was indispensable to construct traverses above, or to work by under-ground galleries; because a battery raked each street, and each house was defended by a garrison that, generally speaking, had only the option of repelling the enemy in front or dying on the gibbet erected behind. But as long as the convents and churches remained in possession of the Spaniards, the progress of the French among the islands of small houses was of little advantage to them, because the large garrisons in the greater buildings enabled the defenders not only to make continual and successful sallies, but also to countermine their enemies, whose superior skill in that kind of warfare was often frustrated by the numbers and persevering energy of the besieged. To overcome these obstacles, the breaching batteries opposite the fourth front fired upon the convents of Saint Augustin and Saint Monica, and the latter was assaulted on the 31st of January. At the same time a part of the wall in another direction being thrown down by a petard, a body of the besiegers poured in, and taking the main breach in rear, cleared not only the convent but several houses around it. The Spaniards, undismayed, immediately opened a gallery from St. Augustin and worked a mine under St. Monica; but at the moment of its being charged, the French discovered and stifled the miners. The 1st of February, the breach in St. Augustin also became practicable, and the attention of the besieged being drawn to that side, the French sprung a mine which they had carried under the wall from the side of St. Monica, and immediately entered by the opening. The Spaniards thus unexpectedly taken in the rear, were thrown into confusion, and driven out with little difficulty. They, however, rallied in a few hours after, and attempted to retake the structure, but without success; and the besiegers, animated by this advantage, broke into the neighbouring houses, and, at one push, carried so many as to arrive at the point where the street called the Quemada joined the Cosso, or public walk. The besieged rallied, however, at the last house of the Quemada, and renewed the combat with so much fury, that the French were beaten from the greatest part of the houses they had taken, and suffered a loss of above a hundred men. On the side of San Engracia a contest still more severe took place; the houses in the vicinity were blown up; but the Spaniards fought so obstinately for the ruins, that the Polish troops were scarcely able to make good their lodgement—although two successive and powerful explosions had, with the buildings, destroyed

a number of the defenders. The experience of these attacks induced a change in the mode of fighting on both sides. Hitherto, the play of the French mines had reduced the houses to ruins, and thus the soldiers were exposed completely to the fire from the next Spanish posts. The engineers, therefore, diminished the quantity of powder, that the interior only might fall and the outward walls stand; and this method was found successful. Hereupon, the Spaniards, with ready ingenuity, saturated the timbers and planks of the houses with rosin and pitch, and setting fire to those which could no longer be maintained, interposed a burning barrier, which often delayed the assailants for two days, and always prevented them from pushing their successes during the confusion that necessarily followed the bursting of the mines. The fighting was, however, incessant; a constant bombardment, the explosion of mines, the crash of falling buildings, clamorous shouts, and the continued echo of musketry, deafened the ear, while volumes of smoke and dust clouded the atmosphere, and lowered continually over the heads of the combatants, as, hour by hour, the French, with a terrible perseverance, pushed forward their approaches to the heart of the miserable but glorious city."

After further details, the wretched city falls; and the following observations occur:—

"1. When the other events of the Spanish war shall be lost in the obscurity of time, or only traced by disconnected fragments, the story of Zaragoza, like some ancient triumphal pillar standing amidst ruins, will tell a tale of past glory; and already men point to the heroic city, and call her Spain, as if her spirit were common to the whole nation: yet it was not so, nor was the defence of Zaragoza itself the effect of unalloyed virtue. It was not patriotism, nor was it courage, nor skill, nor fortitude, nor a system of terror; but all these combined under peculiar circumstances, that upheld the defence: and this combination, and how it was brought about, should be well considered; because it is not so much by catching at the leading resemblances, as by studying the differences of great affairs, that the exploits of one age can be made to serve as models for another. 2. The defence of Zaragoza may be examined under two points of view—as an isolated event, and as a transaction bearing on the general struggle in the Peninsula. With respect to the latter, it was a manifest proof, that neither the Spanish people nor the government partook of the Zaragozaan energy. For it would be absurd to suppose, that in the midst of eleven millions of people, animated by an ardent enthusiasm, fifty thousand armed men could for two months be besieged, shut in, destroyed, they and their works, houses, and bodies, mingled in one terrible ruin, by less than thirty-five thousand adversaries, and that without one effort being made to save them! Deprive the transaction of its dazzling colours, and the simple outline comes to this: Thirty-five thousand French, in the midst of insurrections, in despite of a combination of circumstances peculiarly favourable to the defence, reduced fifty thousand of the bravest and most energetic men in Spain. It is true, the latter suffered nobly; but was their example imitated? Gerona, indeed, although less celebrated, rivalled, and perhaps more than rivalled, the glory of Zaragoza; but elsewhere her fate spoke, not trumpet-tongued to arouse, but with a wailing voice, that carried dismay to the heart of the nation. 3. As an isolated transaction, the siege of Zaragoza is very remarkable; but it would be a great error to

suppose that any town, the inhabitants of which were equally resolute, might be as well defended. Fortitude and bravery will do much; but the combinations of science are not to be defied with impunity. There are no miracles in war! If the houses of Zaragoza had not been nearly incombustible, the bombardment alone would have caused the besieged to surrender, or to perish with their flaming city. 4. That the advantage offered by the peculiar structure of the houses, and the number of the convents and churches, was ably seized by the Spaniards, is beyond doubt. General Rogiat, Lacoste's successor, indeed, treats his opponents' skill in fortification with contempt; but Colonel San Genis' talents are not to be judged of by the faulty construction of a few outworks, at a time when he was under the control of a disorderly and ferocious mob. He knew how to adapt his system of defence to the circumstances of the moment; and no stronger proof of real genius can be given. "Do not consult me about a capitulation," was his common expression: "I shall never be of opinion that Zaragoza can make no further defence." But neither the talents of San Genis, nor the construction of the houses, would have availed, if the people within had not been of a temper adequate to the occasion; and to trace the passions by which they were animated to their true causes, is a proper subject for historical and military research. 5. That they did not possess any superior courage is evident from the facts, that the besieged, although twice the number of the besiegers, never made any serious impression by their sallies, and that they were unable to defend the breaches. In large masses, the standard of courage which is established by discipline may be often inferior to that produced by fanaticism, or any other peculiar excitement; but the latter never lasts long, neither is it equable, because men are of different susceptibility, following their physical and mental conformation. Hence a system of terror has always been the resource of those leaders who, engaged in great undertakings, have been unable to recur to discipline. Enthusiasm stalked in front of their bands, but punishment brought up the rear; and Zaragoza was no exception to this practice. 6. It may be said, that the majority of the besieged not being animated by any peculiar fury, a system of terror could not be carried to any great length; but a close examination explains this seeming mystery. The defenders were composed of three distinct parties,—the regular troops, the peasantry from the country, and the citizens; but the citizens, who had most to lose, were naturally the fiercest, and, accordingly, amongst them, the system of terror was generated. The peasantry followed the example, as all ignorant men, under no regular control, will do; the soldiers meddled but little in the interior arrangements, and the division of the town into islands of posts rendered it perfectly feasible for violent persons, already possessed of authority, to follow the bent of their inclinations: there was no want of men, and the garrison of each island found it their own interest to keep those in front of them to their posts, that the danger might be the longer staved off from themselves. 7. Palafox was only the nominal chief of Zaragoza; the laurels gathered in both sieges should adorn plebeian brows, but those laurels dripped with kindred as well as foreign blood. The energy of the real chiefs, and the cause in which that energy was exerted, may be admired; the acts perpetrated by this ruling band were, in themselves, atrocious; and Palafox, although un-

able to arrest their savage proceedings, can claim but little credit for his own conduct. For more than a month preceding the surrender, he never came forth of a vaulted building, which was impervious to shells, and in which, there is too much reason to believe, he and others, of both sexes, lived in a state of sensuality, forming a disgusting contrast to the wretchedness that surrounded them. *Observations on the French Operations.*—1. Before the arrival of Marshal Lasnes, the operations were conducted with little vigour. The want of unity, as to time, in the double attack of the Monte Torrero and the suburb, was a flagrant error, that was not redeemed by any subsequent activity; but after the arrival of that marshal, the siege was pursued with singular intrepidity and firmness. General Rogiat appears to disapprove of Suchet's division having been sent to Calatayud; yet it seems to have been a judicious measure, inasmuch as it was necessary,—first, to protect the line of correspondence with Madrid; secondly, to have a corps at hand, lest the Duke of Infantado should quit Cuenca, and throw himself into the Guadalajara district, a movement that would have been extremely embarrassing to the king. Suchet's division, while at Calatayud, fulfilled these objects, without losing the power of succouring Tudela, or, by a march on the side of Daroca, of intercepting the Duke of Infantado if he attempted to raise the siege of Zaragoza; but when the Spanish army at Cuenca was directed on Ucles, and that of the Marquess of Lazan was gathering strength on the left bank of the Ebro, it was undoubtedly proper to recall Suchet. 2. It may not be misplaced here to point out the errors of Infantado's operations. If, instead of bringing on a battle with the first corps, he had marched to the Ebro, established his depôts and places of arms at Mequinenza and Lerida, opened a communication with Murcia, Valencia, and Catalonia, and joined the Marquess of Lazan's troops to his own, he might have formed an entrenched camp in the Sierra de Alcubierre, and from thence have carried on a methodical war with, at least, twenty-five thousand regular troops; the insurrections on the French flanks and line of communication with Pampeluna would then have become formidable; and in this situation, having the fortresses of Catalonia behind him, with activity and prudence he might have raised the siege."

We have only, in conclusion, to express our regret that the strong way in which the author allows himself to speak of others, (such as Marshal Beresford, Sir Hudson Lowe, Mr. Frere, &c. &c.) seems calculated to excite angry feelings, and bring his labours, if not himself, into vexatious question.

Adra; or, the Peruvians. By the Author of "the Ruined City."

THERE are some sweet descriptions—some passages of touching pathos; but, as a whole, we do not think the *Peruvians* equal to the *Ruined City*; and this we ascribe to the choice of subject: the great charm of poetry is association—the lute it sweeps is that of memory, and a thousand feelings leap up, like living waters, at the very mention of Greece, which have no affinity with the shores of Peru. The fearful scene of crime and bloodshed attendant on the conquest of America is too uniformly painful; it wants the relief of moral excellence and of sentiment; and thus the most beautiful passages of *Adra* are those which have the least relation to their subject. The following is a touch of true poetry, speaking of love—

"A better spirit, that refines his will—
A touch of angel and of Eden still:"

We like the next much:—

"'Tis in such moments that the human mind
Feels the full blessing a good God designed,
When to his strayed and erring flock he left
Love, the best gift, of Paradise bereft—
Touch of that attribute whereby his will
Created, blessed, redeems, protects us still.
Sweet, in the flush of joy, in hope's smile sweet,
With those we love, the coming hours to greet!
Sweet with the loved, when through time's wastes we stray.

To look on things that were, though past away,
And call on memory, with reflection bright,
To gild the gone with grand and moonlike light.
'Tis sweet to stand where past and future meet,
With hearts attuned, and bid the moments fleet
But as they've fled; and yet the calm, to skies
Raise up in gratitude communal eyes:
But when love comes in sorrow, to divide
Woes whose approach dim man must blind abide,
Then, then, it proves the blessing it was given,
And points the full beneficence of Heaven."

We have praised the descriptions—to one of them belong the ensuing lines:—

"There is a hue, a soft and mellowing shade,
Steals o'er the forest, and embrows the glade,
Long ere the rugged hand of winter dears
Tears from the wither'd branch its garment sear:
Scarce shalt thou see it on the yellowing edge
Of each green leaf; and yet the certain pledge
Is there, that the year's youth is past,
And cold decrepitude is coming fast.
It speaks of bright things fading, and of light
Shrinking away in the dark arms of night;
It shadows forth man's ever-withering state,
With dim prophetic comment on his fate;
It counsels hope—since things that fade on earth,
Light, seasons, flowers, all know a second birth."

We think we leave our readers under favourable impressions; and have only ourselves to add the more mechanical praise of good versification: Mr. James's metre is as polished as it is musical.

The Library of Entertaining Knowledge.
Vol. III. Part I.—*The Pursuit of Knowledge under Difficulties; illustrated by Anecdotes.*
London, 1829. C. Knight.

THOUGH we have expressed much approbation of this work as it has proceeded from the press, and enriched our columns by extracts from it when these fell readily within the scope of our own publication,—we are free to say that the present Part meets with a still higher share of our applause than any of its predecessors,—amusing and instructive though they have been. But the end proposed by this little volume, and the means by which it is enforced, meet equally with our entire concurrence. To make the reader in love with knowledge for its own sake—to encourage its cultivation by eminent examples—and to exalt the pursuit above the debasing idea that it is followed for what may be its worth in a mere worldly sense, are laudable and beneficial objects. And the book which impresses them on the public mind with spirit, taste, and judgment, as this does, is most deserving of encouragement and popularity. It has our warmest good wishes.

"We are about to select," says the editor, "from the records of philosophy, literature, and art, in all ages and countries, a body of examples, to shew how the most unpropitious circumstances have been unable to conquer an ardent desire for the acquisition of knowledge. Every man has difficulties to encounter in this pursuit; and therefore every man is interested in learning what are the real hindrances which have opposed themselves to the progress of some of the most distinguished persons, and how those obstacles have been surmounted."

And the example of a hundred distinguished individuals is brought into notice, under circumstances all well calculated to illustrate this design, and at the same time making a chapter of very amusing anecdote. We quote almost at random.

"The late Professor Heyne, of Gottingen, was one of the greatest classical scholars of his own or of any age; and during his latter days enjoyed a degree of distinction, both in his own country and throughout Europe, of which scarcely any contemporary name, in the same department of literature, could boast. Yet he had spent the first thirty-two or thirty-three years of his life, not only in obscurity, but in an almost incessant struggle with the most depressing poverty. He had been born, indeed, amidst the miseries of the lowest indigence, his father being a poor weaver, with a large family, for whom his best exertions were often unable to provide bread. In the 'Memoirs of his own Life,' Heyne says, 'Want was the earliest companion of my childhood. I well remember the painful impressions made on my mind by witnessing the distress of my mother when without food for her children. How often have I seen her, on a Saturday evening, weeping and wringing her hands, as she returned home from an unsuccessful effort to sell the goods which the daily and nightly toil of my father had manufactured!' His parents sent him to a child's school in the suburbs of the small town of Chemnitz, in Saxony, where they lived; and he soon exhibited an uncommon desire of acquiring information. He made so rapid a progress in the humble branches of knowledge taught in the school, that, before he had completed his tenth year, he was paying a portion of his school fees by teaching a little girl, the daughter of a wealthy neighbour, to read and write. Having learned every thing comprised in the usual course of the school, he felt a strong desire to learn Latin. A son of the schoolmaster, who had studied at Leipsic, was willing to teach him at the rate of four-pence a week; but the difficulty of paying so large a fee seemed quite insurmountable. One day he was sent to his godfather, who was a baker in pretty good circumstances, for a loaf. As he went along, he pondered sorrowfully on this great object of his wishes, and entered the shop in tears. The good-tempered baker, on learning the cause of his grief, undertook to pay the required fee for him; at which, Heyne tells us, he was perfectly intoxicated with joy; and as he ran, all ragged and barefoot, through the streets, tossing the loaf in the air, it slipped from his hands and rolled into the gutter. This accident, and a sharp reprimand from his parents, who could ill afford such a loss, brought him to his senses. He continued his lessons for about two years, when his teacher acknowledged that he had taught him all he himself knew. At this time, his father was anxious that he should adopt some trade, but Heyne felt an invincible desire to pursue his literary education; and it was fortunate for the world that he was at this period of his life furnished with the means of following the course of his inclination. He had another godfather, who was a clergyman in the neighbourhood; and this person, upon receiving the most flattering accounts of Heyne from his last master, agreed to be at the expense of sending him to the principal seminary of his native town of Chemnitz. His new patron, however, although a well-endowed churchman, doled out his bounty with most scrupulous parsimony; and Heyne, without the necessary books of his own, was often obliged to borrow those of his companions, and to copy them over for his own use. At last he obtained the situation of tutor to the son of one of the citizens; and this for a short time rendered his condition more comfortable. But the

period was come when, if he was to proceed in the career he had chosen, it was necessary for him to enter the university; and he resolved to go to Leipsic. He arrived in that city accordingly with only two florins (about four shillings) in his pocket, and nothing more to depend upon, except the small assistance he might receive from his godfather, who had promised to continue his bounty. He had to wait so long, however, for his expected supplies from this source, which came accompanied with much grudging and reproach when they did make their appearance, that, destitute both of money and books, he would even have been without bread too, had it not been for the compassion of the maid-servant of the house where he lodged. What sustained his courage in these circumstances (we here use his own words) was neither ambition nor presumption, nor even the hope of one day taking his place among the learned. The stimulus that incessantly spurred him on was the feeling of the humiliation of his condition—the shame with which he shrank from the thought of that degradation which the want of a good education would impose upon him—above all, the determined resolution of battling courageously with fortune. He was resolved to try, he said, whether, although she had thrown him among the dust, he should not be able to rise up by his own efforts. His ardour for study only grew the greater as his difficulties increased. For six months he only allowed himself two nights' sleep in the week; and yet all the while his godfather scarcely ever wrote to him but to inveigh against his indolence,—often actually addressing his letters on the outside, 'To M. Heyne, Idler, at Leipsic.' In the mean time, while his distress was every day becoming more intolerable, he was offered, by one of the professors, the situation of tutor in a family at Magdeburg. Desirable as the appointment would have been in every other respect, it would have removed him from the scene of his studies; and he declined it. He resolved rather to remain in the midst of all his miseries at Leipsic. He was, however, in a few weeks after, recompensed for this noble sacrifice, by procuring, through the recommendation of the same professor, a situation similar to the one he had refused, in the university town. This, of course, relieved for a time his pecuniary wants; but still the ardour with which he pursued his studies continued so great, that it at last brought on a dangerous illness, which obliged him to resign his situation, and very soon completely exhausted his trifling resources; so that on his recovery he found himself as poor and destitute as ever. In this extremity, a copy of Latin verses which he had written having attracted the attention of one of the Saxon ministers, he was induced, by the advice of his friends, to set out for the court at Dresden, where it was expected this high patronage would make his fortune; but he was doomed only to new disappointments. After having borrowed money to pay the expenses of his journey, all he obtained from the courtier was a few vague promises, which ended in nothing. He was obliged eventually, after having sold his books, to accept the place of copyist in the library of the Count de Brühl, at the miserable annual salary of one hundred crowns (about 17*l.* sterling)—a sum which, even in that cheap country, was scarcely sufficient to keep him from perishing of hunger. However, with his industrious habits, he found time, beside performing the duties of his situation, to do a little work for the booksellers. He first translated a French romance, for

which he was paid twenty crowns. For a learned and excellent edition which he prepared of the Latin poet Tibullus, he received, in successive payments, one hundred crowns, with which he discharged the debts he had contracted at Leipsic. In this way he contrived to exist for a few years, all the while studying hard, and thinking himself amply compensated for the hardships of his lot, by the opportunities he had of pursuing his favourite researches, in a city so rich in collections of books and antiquities as Dresden. After he had held his situation in the library for above two years, his salary was doubled; but before he derived any benefit from the augmentation, the Seven Years' War had commenced. Saxony was overrun by the forces of Frederick the Great, and Heyne's place, and the library itself to which it was attached, were swept away at the same time. He was obliged to fly from Dresden, and wandered about for a long time without any employment. At last he was received into a family at Wittenberg; but in a short time the progress of the war drove him from this asylum also, and he returned to Dresden, where he still had a few articles of furniture, which he had purchased with the little money he saved while he held his place in the library. He arrived just in time to witness the bombardment of that capital, in the conflagration of which his furniture perished, as well as some property which he had brought with him from Wittenberg, belonging to a lady, one of the family in whose house he lived, for whom he had formed an attachment during his residence there. Thus left, both of them, without a shilling, the young persons nevertheless determined to share each other's destiny, and they were accordingly united. By the exertions of some common friends, a retreat was procured for Heyne and his wife in the establishment of a M. de Leoben, where he spent some years, during which his time was chiefly occupied in the management of that gentleman's property. At last, at the general peace in 1763, he returned to Dresden; and here ended his hard fortunes. Some time before his arrival in that city, the professorship of eloquence in the University of Gottingen had become vacant by the death of the celebrated John Mathias Gesner. The chair had been offered, in the first instance, to David Ruhnken, one of the first scholars of the age, who declined, however, to leave the University of Leyden, where he had lately succeeded the eminent Hemsterhuys as professor of Greek. Fortunately, however, for Heyne, Ruhnken was one of the few to whom his edition of Tibullus, and another of Epictetus, which he had published shortly after, had made his obscure name and great merits known; and with a generous anxiety to befriend one whom he considered to be so deserving, he ventured, of his own accord, to recommend him to the Hanoverian minister as the fittest person he could mention for the vacant office. Such a testimony from Ruhnken was at once the most honourable and the most efficient patronage Heyne could have had. He was immediately nominated to the professorship; although so little known, that it was with considerable difficulty he was found. He held this appointment for nearly fifty years; in the course of which, as we have already remarked, he may be said, by his successive publications, and the attraction of his lectures, to have placed himself nearly at the head of the classical scholars of his age; while he was at the same time loved and venerated as a father, not only by his numerous pupils, but by all ranks of his fellow-citizens, who, on his death,

in 1812, felt that their University and city had lost what had been for half a century its chief distinction."

Among the memoirs of self-educated men, the notice of Thomas Simpson, the celebrated mathematician, is peculiarly striking; and the following is a fitting sequel:

"We have remarked that the book from which Simpson acquired his first knowledge of fluxions was a work by Edmund Stone. Stone affords us another instance of a self-educated mathematician. Neither the place nor the time of his birth is exactly known; but he was probably a native of Argyleshire, and born a few years before the close of the seventeenth century. He is spoken of as having reached an advanced age in 1760, and he died in 1768. The only account we have of his early life is contained in a letter, which is to be found prefixed to a French translation of one of his works, from his contemporary, the Chevalier Ramsay, who knew him. His father, Ramsay tells us, was gardener to the Duke of Argyle, who, walking one day in his garden, observed a Latin copy of Newton's 'Principia' lying on the grass; and thinking it had been brought from his own library, called some one to carry it back to its place. 'Upon this,' (the narrative proceeds,) 'Stone, who was then in his eighteenth year, claimed the book as his own. 'Yours?' replied the duke; 'do you understand geometry, Latin, and Newton?' 'I know a little of them,' replied the young man. The duke was surprised; and, having a taste for the sciences, he entered into conversation with the young mathematician. He asked him several questions, and was astonished at the force, the accuracy, and the candour, of his answers. 'But how,' said the duke, 'came you by the knowledge of all these things?' Stone replied, 'A servant taught me ten years since to read. Does one need to know any thing more than the twenty-four letters, in order to learn every thing else that one wishes?' The duke's curiosity redoubled: he sat down on a bank, and requested a detail of the whole process by which he had become so learned. 'I first learned to read,' said Stone; 'the masons were then at work upon your house. I approached them one day, and observed that the architect used a rule and compasses, and that he made calculations. I inquired what might be the meaning and use of these things, and I was informed that there was a science called arithmetic. I purchased a book of arithmetic, and I learned it. I was told there was another science called geometry; I bought the necessary books, and I learned geometry. By reading, I found that there were good books in these two sciences in Latin; I bought a dictionary, and I learned Latin. I understood, also, that there were good books of the same kind in French; I bought a dictionary, and I learned French. And this, my lord, is what I have done: it seems to me that we may learn every thing when we know the twenty-four letters of the alphabet.'"

A Journey through Norway, Lapland, and part of Sweden, &c. By the Rev. Robert Everest, A.M., F.G.S., late of University College, Oxford. 8vo. pp. 383. London, 1829. Underwood.

We were prepared by report to expect that the subject of this work would, almost exclusively, have been geology, or some branches of science connected with that interesting and useful study; but its perusal enables us to state, that the general reader may also derive consider-

able gratification from Mr. Everest's volume. The ingenious author left London on the 1st of May (1827), in a Norwegian merchant vessel, commanded by a little captain, who had not seen much of England, but "quite enough, as he thought, to give a very good opinion on it. He had rambled through some streets in the neighbourhood of the Tower, and was satisfied that the English ladies were very dirty and immodest. There were, however, some points that counterbalanced these disadvantages. He had been to Greenwich fair; Greenwich fair was delightful: there was nothing like it in Norway."

So much is the coast of Norway indented by creeks, that the eye cannot trace their various entrances, and ships seem to steer directly for the breakers.

"It almost alarmed us," says Mr. E., "to find ourselves in a large ship, winding at full sail among the rocks (of the Glommen), which were so near occasionally, that we fancied we might have leapt on shore. We could at any time have held a conversation with a person there. In this manner we proceeded five or six miles."

Some former traveller declares, that a northern town reminded him of a parcel of large deal boxes huddled together: and this description our author thinks perfectly applicable to the Forstadt, or sea-port of Fredericksstadt; although he found, on approaching the place, that several houses were neatly painted and tiled, and exquisitely clean. Some Norwegian newspapers at Arendal, noticing the exports and imports of the last three months, mentioned that from one place *forty-eight thousand* lobsters had been sent. "And who—(was naturally the inquiry that followed)—who were the lobster-eaters? Why, the Londoners. John Bull is a good fellow, but he will certainly take more pains for his stomach than for any other earthly object. There is an English lobster-company, and their agents are busy all along the coast. Twice or thrice a week their packets sail from Christiansand."

Extreme poverty, in some parts of Norway, produces much filth, and a paucity of articles that may be almost regarded as necessary to the comforts of life. In some houses the whole stock of utensils were one large iron pot, an axe, one knife, and half-a-dozen wooden bowls and spoons. The moss that stuffs the seams between the trees of which the wainscots are composed, harbours much vermin: the severity of the climate obliges the people to sleep in their only room that has a fire-place, and in one large bed, like a deal box, into which they all creep: some straw is spread at the bottom, and sheep-skins serve for covering. They seemed to have scarcely a fixed hour for sleep, "but each got in by day, as he found himself tired. At Dal none of us were much at home, except our great dog, who was hospitably received into the family bed, and the next morning we found him asleep between the children and their parents. The swampy land they labour in, prevents the women's bare feet, or their miserable remnants of shoes and stockings, from ever being clean; but their tables, and what utensils they have, are generally spotless. On the Saturday night we passed at Dal, the children (three or four girls) were washed clean, and with their rosy cheeks, and long brown hair flowing over their shoulders, after the manner of all the Norwegians, seemed worthy of a better lot. The next day I saw one of these little things reading the prayer-book to its mother. Destitute as they were of every worldly comfort, we found two or three

religious books in every house. The hope of the weary and heavy-laden in every clime is not denied to these poor sojourners in the valley of tears."

A remarkable circumstance is mentioned in page 40, respecting the great Mios lake, which is, in fact, an extensive inland sea, its banks fringed, not with fir-trees, but with alder, birch, and mountain-ash, hazel and poplar. At the time of the memorable Lisbon earthquake this lake was violently agitated, and its water is said to have risen twenty feet, and then suddenly retreated, leaving high and dry all the fishermen's boats that were upon it.

Having informed us that the clowns of Gulbrandsdalen stalk about in good shoes and stockings, while their wives and daughters go barefoot, our author, aware that the notion may be regarded as fanciful, thinks it possible to trace a resemblance "in the manners and customs of these people to the ancient Greeks; for it is well known that from thence they derived the mythology of Odin; and if so, why not trifles, which would naturally accompany it, and be preserved among a people that live so much secluded from the rest of the world? The women in Gulbrandsdalen wear their hair in the manner we see in ancient figures, none in front, but all drawn back from the forehead, and fastened in a small knot behind. One imagines a rude likeness in the wooden bowls and cups, which they carve for themselves, to many of the Etruscan models; and in a garden south of the Dovrefield, a stuffed figure not unaptly represented the rural god yet 'terrens aves.'"

Many instances are recorded in this volume which place the character of the Norwegians in a very favourable point of view. Indeed, Mr. Everest, in his preface, describes their country, which, though he was a stranger, had linked his best hopes and wishes to its cause, as one "where," says he, "I have often felt that I could live and die contented among its rocks and woods and dales, in the midst of its quiet and virtuous people." He thinks that the Laplanders, those children of nature, are rather to be envied than pitied. Their high state of health and spirits he ascribes to the total absence of mental anxiety, their few and simple wants, and their hardy habits. A Laplander will go for thirty miles through swamps and rocks, take a draught of milk, sleep in his wet clothes, and rise the next morning as fresh as when he began his journey. Having seen at Hammerfest many drunken Fins rolling in the mire, Mr. E. remarks, that this beastly exhibition seldom occurs oftener than once in three months, when these people visit the warehouse; for they do not keep any fermented liquors in their own huts, where they drink only milk and water: but they are like children, without disguise,—what little vice they have, is shewn in the face of day. At Fuglengen the bears are sometimes so pressed by hunger, that they come to the huts, attracted by the smell of flesh and blubber. "I never could learn that they had actually carried a man off; but a story is told of two Russians who were playing at draughts by the window, when a great white paw pushed through a pane, seized one of them by the nape of the neck, and endeavoured to drag him out; but the man escaped with the loss of a handful of his shaggy hair."

We have already noticed the considerable number of lobsters exported to England. The host at Walderhong addressed our author—"So, you are an Englishman; come, I suppose, to inquire about lobsters." "I after-

wards found," says Mr. E., "the trade in these creatures with London is so great, that all the way from Stadtholm to Lindenes an Englishman and a devourer of lobsters are almost synonymous terms."

A traveller might pass (on the way between Christiania and Stockholm) from Norway into Sweden without observing the circumstance, were it not for a boundary mark. "No one ever left Norway without regret. It is a country in many parts of which a child might walk about with a bag of gold, and no one would molest it—where the stranger, by day or by night, may knock at any door he comes to, and be welcome."

If drunkenness prevailed in Norway, it appeared still more universal in Sweden; and the approach to Stockholm exhibited the lower classes dissolute and brutal, as they usually are in the neighbourhood of great cities. This capital consists of narrow streets and high houses, and contains nothing comparable to the palace, which frowns upon the subject town, fit for "Augustus Cæsar—*divum genus*."

"The crown princess of Sweden is said to be one of the most amiable women that ever lived. As the same thing is always asserted of those in her rank, it is difficult to know when we ought to believe it. But I have heard it in Norway from people who would not have said it if it had not been true. Among the few and rare that good fortune cannot spoil or power corrupt, she is the same unostentatious creature which she would have been in humbler life. She is the idol of the Norwegians, as the pomposity of the Swedes is their aversion. The cavalier of Stockholm is indeed a rich figure. The solemn deportment of the rider, the worthless animal which he bestrides, and the mountebank tinsel with which it is covered, lead to the irresistible conclusion that he must be advancing to the attack of the windmills. Manners seem to be on a par throughout the peninsula. The detestable practice of spitting is carried to a much worse extent in Sweden than in Norway."

Our author's partiality to Norway is strongly expressed near the conclusion of his work, where he addresses that country, the very thought of which kindles his spirit. "I know (says he) every mountain in her long-extended range, and every mountain recalls the name of some one who has treated me with kindness."

The last hundred pages of this work comprise notes on the geology of Norway, Sweden, and Lapland,—zoological and thermometrical observations,—tables of revenue, exports, and population,—a meteorological journal,—and other articles which will prove highly interesting to a numerous class of readers. Besides the frontispiece (a view in the *Vest fiord dal*), this volume is embellished with five folding plates of coloured sketches illustrating the geological observations.

Family Library. Vol. V. *History of the Jews.* London, 1829. Murray.

THIS is the first of three volumes which it is intended to devote to the History of the Jews; and it is calculated fully to sustain the popularity which the previous Numbers of this miscellany have acquired. It embraces the history of the Jews from the time of Abraham to the Babylonian captivity. The subject, as we had only last week occasion to observe in our Review of Jahn's valuable work, is one of deep, general, and permanent interest; and it appears to us that ample justice has been done to it, as far as he has gone, in his popular form, by the author of this volume.

The plan of the work has been conceived with great judgment; and what has been thus judiciously conceived, has been also ably as well as agreeably executed. The author has very adroitly shunned the error into which unskilful writers of historical compendiums too frequently fall;—he has not sunk into a mere annalist, transcribing a dry register of facts arranged in chronological order; but he either passes over entirely, or touches very slightly, events which appear to him of minor importance, and reserves both his space and his fire for those more momentous and interesting transactions which require to be fully displayed. The narrative is rapid and extremely clear; and the language is always neat, generally nervous, and frequently eloquent:—indeed, the character and execution of this interesting and delightful little volume cannot fail to make a very enviable addition to the already well-established reputation of its accomplished and very estimable author. We consider it a valuable acquisition to our literary stores, and peculiarly adapted to give clear and correct views of the leading characters and more important events which figure in the records of the Old Testament. We are acquainted with no volume which we can more heartily recommend to our readers: to the younger part of them more especially, we are sure it will prove a most acceptable present. The interest of the narrative is indeed sustained throughout; and if we had room, we would transfer to our pages several of its beautiful passages; but as want of space compels us to content ourselves with a specimen, we shall select the following striking account, which the author gives of the magnificent scene that immediately preceded the death of Moses.

“As his end approached, he summoned the assembly of all Israel to receive his final instructions. His last thoughts were the welfare of the commonwealth and the permanence of the constitution. Already the people had been numbered for the third time; they were found not to have increased or decreased very materially since the departure from Egypt. Moses recounted their whole eventful history since their deliverance—their toils, their dangers, their triumphs; he recapitulated and consolidated in one brief code the book of Deuteronomy, the whole law, in some degree modified and adapted to the future circumstances of the republic. Finally, he appointed a solemn ratification of the law, which although it was not to take place, nor did take place, till after the conquest, yet is so deeply impressed with the genius and lofty character of the lawgiver, that it may be better to relate it here than at the time when it was fulfilled under the direction of Joshua. Never did human imagination conceive a scene so imposing, so solemn, so likely to impress the whole people with deep and enduring awe, as the final ratification of their polity, as commanded by the dying lawgiver. In the territory, afterwards assigned to the tribe of Ephraim, a central region, stand two remarkable mountains, separated by a deep and narrow ravine, in which the ancient Shechem, the modern Naplous, stands. Here all Israel was to be assembled, six tribes on one height, six on the other. In the open day, and in a theatre as it were, created by the God of nature for the express purpose, after a sacrifice offered on an altar of stones, the people of Israel testified their free and deliberate acceptance of that constitution which their God had enacted. They accepted it with its inseparable conditions, maledictions the most

awful, which they imprecated on their own heads, in case they should apostatise from its statutes—blessings equally ample and perpetual, if they should adhere to its holy and salutary provisions. The type of either destiny lay before them: Mount Ebal was a barren, stony, arid, and desolate crag; Gerizim, a lovely and fertile height, with luxuriant verdure, streams of running water, and cool and shady groves. As God had blasted Ebal, so he would smite the disobedient with barrenness, hunger, and misery; as he crowned Gerizim with beauty and fruitfulness, so he would bless the faithful Israelites with abundance, with peace, with happiness. On Mount Ebal—as the Levites read the heads of the prohibitory statutes, and denounced the curse against the idolater, the oppressor, the adulterer, the unnatural son, the incestuous, the murderer—the tribes of Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali, with one voice, which was echoed back from the opposite height, responded Amen, so be it. On Gerizim stood the tribes of Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin; as the blessings of the law were recited, to give the same unreserved assent. Having thus appointed all the circumstances of this impressive scene, the lawgiver himself enlarged on the blessings of obedience; but with a dark and melancholy foreboding of the final destiny of his people, he laid before them still more at length the consequences of apostasy and wickedness. The sublimity of his denunciations surpasses any thing in the oratory or the poetry of the whole world. Nature is exhausted in furnishing terrific images; nothing, excepting the real horrors of the Jewish history—the miseries of their sieges, the cruelty, the contempt, the oppressions, the persecutions, which for ages this scattered, and despised, and detested nation have endured—can approach the tremendous maledictions which warned them against the violation of their law. *The Lord shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish. And the heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee iron. The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust; from heaven shall it come down upon thee till thou be destroyed. . . . And thou shalt become an astonishment, and a proverb, and a byword among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee. A nation of fierce countenance. . . . shall besiege thee in all thy gates. . . . and thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and thy daughters, which the Lord thy God hath given thee, in the siege and in the straitness wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee. . . . And among the nations shall thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest; for the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind; and thy life shall hang in doubt before thee, and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life. In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.”*

The death of the Jewish lawgiver is thus described:—

“Moses ascended the loftiest eminence in the neighbourhood, in order that he might once behold, before his eyes closed for ever, the land of promise. From the top of Mount

Abarim, or Nebo, the former of which names may perhaps be traced in Djebel Attarous, the highest point in the district, the lawgiver, whose eyes were not yet dimmed, and who had suffered none of the infirmities of age, might survey a large tract of country. To the right lay the mountain pastures of Gilead, the romantic district of Bashan; the windings of the Jordan might be traced along its broad and level valley, till, almost beneath his feet, it flowed into the Dead Sea. To the north spread the luxuriant plains of Esdraelon, the more hilly yet fruitful country of Lower Galilee. Right opposite stood the city of Jericho, embowered in its groves of palms—beyond it the mountains of Judea, rising above each other till they reached the sea. Gazing on this magnificent prospect, beholding in prophetic anticipation his great and happy commonwealth occupying its numerous towns and blooming fields, Moses breathed his last. The place of his burial was unknown, lest perhaps the impious gratitude of his followers might ascribe divine honours to his name, and assemble to worship at his sepulchre.”

His character is then sketched with great force and discrimination: he is stated to be “a man who, considered merely in an historical light, without any reference to his divine inspiration, has exercised a more extensive and permanent influence over the destinies of his own nation and mankind at large, than any other individual recorded in the annals of the world. Christianity and Mahometanism alike respect, and, in different degrees, derive their origin from the Mosaic institutes. Thus throughout Europe, with all its American descendants—the larger part of Asia and the north of Africa—the opinions, the usages, the civil as well as religious ordinances—retain deep and indelible traces of their descent from the Hebrew polity. To his own nation Moses was chieftain, historian, poet, lawgiver. He was more than all these—he was the author of their civil existence. Other founders of republics, and distinguished legislators, have been, like Numa, already at the head of a settled and organised community, or have been voluntarily invested in legislative authority, like Charondas, Lycurgus, and Solon, by a people suffering the inconveniences of anarchy. Moses had first to form his people and bestow on them a country of their own, before he could create his commonwealth. The Hebrews would either have been absorbed in the population of Egypt, or remained a wretched Pariah caste, had Moses never lived. In this condition he took them up, rescued them from captivity: finding them unfit for his purpose, he kept them for forty years under the severe discipline of the desert, then led them as conquerors to take permanent possession of a most fruitful region. Yet with singular disregard to his own fame, though with great advantage to his design, Moses uniformly referred to an earlier and more remote personage the dignity of parent of his people. The Jews were children of Abraham, not of Moses; they were a distinguished nation as descendants of the patriarch, not as compatriots of the lawgiver. The virtue of pure and disinterested patriotism never shone forth more unclouded. The permanent happiness of the whole people was the one great object to which the life of Moses was devoted; so that if we could for an instant suspect that he made use of religion for a political purpose, still that purpose would entitle him to the highest rank among the benefactors of mankind, as having been the first who at-

tempted to regulate society by an equal written law. If God was not the sovereign of the Jewish state, the law was: the best and only safe vicegerent of Almighty providence to which the welfare of human communities can be intrusted. If the Hebrew commonwealth was not a theocracy, it was a nomocracy. On the other hand, if, as we suppose in the Mosaic polity, the civil was subordinate to the religious end, still the immediate well-being of the community was not sacrificed to the more remote object. Independent of the temporal blessings promised to the maintenance of the law, the Hebrew commonwealth was so constituted, as to produce (all circumstances of the times, the situation and character of the people considered) as much or more real happiness and independence than any existing or imaginary government of ancient times. Let Moses be judged according to his age, he will appear not merely the first who by his single genius founded a commonwealth on just principles, but a lawgiver who advanced political society to as high a degree of perfection as the state of civilisation which his people had attained, or were capable of attaining, could possibly admit."

We would willingly transcribe an equally eloquent passage describing the splendid scene which accompanied the dedication of Solomon's Temple; but our limits warn us that we must desist. This, however, we the less regret, as we have no doubt that our readers will gratify themselves by a perusal of the work itself. The volume contains three excellent maps: one of the wanderings of the Israelites—another of Palestine—and a third of the dominions of David and Solomon: it is also illustrated with several beautifully executed engravings on wood, representing various objects connected with the ritual and ceremonies of the Jews.

The Book of the Boudoir. By Lady Morgan. 2 vols. H. Colburn. London, 1829.

CERTAINLY there are no works more delightful than auto-biographical ones; they carry into the regions of imagination and invention that spirit of gossiping which fills up more pauses in conversation than anything else; they subtilise and refine our love of that species of extra knowledge which consists of the affairs of others; they give us that kind of mirror-like look into the hearts of our acquaintance, which reflects so much of our own; and, above all, they usually add to the dazzle and show of a great name all the interest of that familiar life with which every one is familiar. After all, vanity is the great charm, *la fée lumineuse*, the genius of these works; not that vanity which, like an unskilful mail-driver, must have all the road to itself,—but that pleasant social vanity, like the bee living on honey—gathering, or seeking to gather, "golden opinions from all ranks of men," and willing to give a fair exchange for value received: add to this, a keen perception of the ridiculous, a little in ourselves, a great deal in others; the gracefulness of narrative which, like our complexion, must be born with us:—But we must stop in our list of qualifications, lest we should be told, like the lady who was setting forth her string of acquisitions for a governess,—"Madam, you must have an impossibility created for you." We must say that Lady Morgan has the necessary ingredients to make an amusing auto-biographer: very lively,—telling a story well,—pleasantly egotistical and conceited,—we have not for some time met with a more readable book.

As the best quotations seem to have already run the round of the newspaper press, we have for the present only to leave this work with a cordial recommendation to our readers, as one of those light, spirited comedies which ought to put the public in good humour at the close of what has been a somewhat dull publishing season. We abjure Lady Morgan's politics, we protest against her philosophy; but we like these sketches of her life, and advise her to sit down and write the whole of it with all possible speed,—if not as an example to all female talent, at least as a beacon in many instances of the first importance to female happiness. In this light we may resume these volumes.

Thompson's Visit to Guatemala. (Concluded.)

THE reasons which induced us to resume the analysis of this volume last week, incline us to pursue the subject through one other paper. Describing a conversation with the principal persons then in power, the author says:

"The conversation now turned on the central position of the republic, its consequent facilities for commerce and intercourse, not only with Jamaica and the British islands, but also, through her medium, with Peru and Chile. The proposed navigation by the lake of Nicaragua was also discussed, by which the British intercourse with China and the East Indies would be so much facilitated,—together with other subjects of equal political and commercial importance as well to the republic as to the empire of Great Britain. I had the pleasure of being told by the president, on this occasion, that he had been informed by Don Juan de Mayorga, their minister at Mexico, of the interest I had taken in favour of their republic. He had heard, he said, that I had, on many occasions, spoken in support of its new organisation, in answer to parties at Mexico who had wished Guatemala to be still dependent upon that republic; and he concluded by drinking my health, and hoping that I might return and *radicate* (that was his expression) myself in the country."

Near the old city of Guatemala are three grand conical mountains, of which we are told: "The most beautiful is to the east: it is called the Water Mountain, as emitting, at times, cold water from its northern side: the other two, to the south, also emit water, but as the same is always hot, they have acquired the designation of the Fire Mountains. The hot water, which flows from the north side of them, is very medicinal, and is called De Bartolomé Acatanango. There is a larger mountain to the south of these volcanoes called Pacaya, and another to the west called Atitlán. The three largest mountains are, in fact, quite close to the city, and they rise with gentle, uniform slopes from the very streets of it, being cultivated nearly half the way up with the nopal or cochineal plant and indigo, and interspersed with luxuriant gardens and grotesque Indian villages; having the remainder of their heights adorned, to their very summits, with trees of an exuberant growth. The height of the plain of Old as well as New Guatemala is about 1,800 feet above the level of the sea: the tops of the mountains, taken from the same level, are about a league, or 15,000 feet, high. They therefore rise, from their base, to the height of about 13,200 feet, which, although it is 2,547 feet lower than the inferior limit of perpetual snow, is (I shall presently shew) from 1000 to 3000 feet higher from the level of their base than any other mountains in

North or South America. The loftiest mountain, and nearest to the city of Mexico, is that of Ajusco, towards the south; its main height is 12,052 feet; but, standing on the verge of that table land, which is itself elevated 7,470 feet, its actual height from its base to its summit is only 4,582 feet. Ajusco, seen at the distance of ten leagues from the city of Mexico, is a noble sight; how then must I have been struck with the mountains of the Antigua, whose bases arise from the verge of its streets to an elevation nearly three times as great as that of Ajusco; and which, from their relative elevation above the level of the sea, and on account of their being situated under a warmer latitude, are covered with perpetual verdure to their very summits! Chimborazo, the highest peak of the Andes in South America, is 21,441 feet; but it rests upon a plain of 9,514, leaving for its actual height from its base only 11,927 feet, 2,700 of which are covered with snow. The two highest of the Mexican mountains Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatle, viewed from a distance, present, with their snow-clad summits, a grand and terrific appearance. The loftiest, which is 17,710 feet above the level of the sea, rises from its base to the height of about 10,000 feet, whereas the three indestructible volcanoes of Guatemala (it is extraordinary that they have no names,—perhaps Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, might do) are elevated, as we have seen, 13,000 feet. There is not, probably, in the whole world, so perfect a cone as the Water Mountain of the three in question; and, although it does not appear terrifically grand, like the other mountains of these regions, it is pre-eminently beautiful, and strikes the imagination with sensations of amazement and delight."

Having departed for the coast, we select the following description of a part of the country near the sea:—

"Previously to arriving at Mico, the last evening, we had passed through a grove of the most magnificent palms that I had ever seen: mackaws and various other parrots, with different birds of splendid plumage, studded the loftier trees, and startled, at intervals, the deep solitude of the scene with their appalling screech. Here and there a large monkey darted across the path, and peeping round the trunk of a tree, made hideous faces at us as we passed: amidst the high matted reeds, sometimes, we observed, or fancied we observed, the rustling of some animal, when we instinctively put our hands upon our holsters: it might be a tiger, for these animals are not wanting to this wild seclusion: the poor mules, in the meanwhile, were plunging, every few paces, up to their girths in deep morass, and, if the ground was hard, it was so slippery with the wet that they could scarcely maintain a footing."

Arrived at Belize, our author's journal continues to afford more light and pleasant sketches, which are very agreeable reading: and his volume closes with documents of greater political importance. The subjoined table and details are useful:—

Table of the Conquest and Liberty of America.

Names of the States.	Years of conquest.	Days of declaring Liberty.	Duration of slavery.
Venezuela	1296	19 April, 1810	293
Buenos Ayres ..	1516	25 May —	293
Santa Fe	1538	20 July —	271
Caragena	1580	18 August —	189
Chile	1535	18 Sept. —	274
Peru	1531	15 July, 1821	289
Mexico	1520	24 August —	300
Guatemala ..	1524	15 Sept. —	302
Panama	1518	28 Nov. —	307

"The mahogany exported by British settlers

may be calculated at about sixty square-rigged vessels, at 120,000 feet each, value about \$400,000 annually; and the value of Guatemalan produce, such as indigo, cochineal, &c., exported, amounts to three times as much again. It is supposed that the sales of one commercial house at Belize average £15,000 currency per month, which is one-twentieth part of what is sold, and would make the sales of British dry goods imported for the supply of that colony and Guatemala at least £2,500,000 currency, or about £1,500,000 sterling. The greatest part of the import and export trade of Guatemala is carried on by the port of Izabal, at the bottom of the Golfo Dulce, and by that of Omoa, on the left of the entrance of that gulf. The goods are conveyed between the English settlement of Belize and those parts in small schooners drawing about seven feet water, from four to seven tons burden, and charging for the freight from 150 to 200 dollars per trip each way. They average from four to ten days in making the voyage; being incommoded one way by the stream running out of the gulf, and the other by the north-east wind which blows down it nine months out of the year. The distance, which is about 200 miles, might be performed by a steam-boat in twenty-four hours."

Our concluding extracts treat of a subject of the greatest interest—"the feasibility of establishing a water-communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific;" respecting which Mr. Thompson says: "It is an important feature in the history of this republic, that she has been the first, and indeed the only one of them all, that has taken any decided steps in the matter. Most writers have considered the river San Juan as one of the most advantageous, as well as most likely, points for establishing the communication alluded to: the Guatemalan government have, naturally, been no less impressed with that opinion; and the following particulars will show in what manner they have met the propositions which have been made to them, as well as the specific objects which they entertain in carrying the plan into execution. There were, at this time, two companies formed in England for the general purposes of effecting, by steam-navigation or otherwise, a water-communication between the two oceans; but the only proposals that had been made to the government by British merchants were proffered by the respectable firm which I have above mentioned. The purport of those proposals, bearing date the 18th September, 1824, was to form a navigable communication by means of the lake of Nicaragua and the river San Juan, without any expense to the government, provided the latter would give the projectors every necessary assistance. On the 2d of February, 1825, other propositions were made to the government by some merchants of the United States of North America, and signed by Colonel Charles Bourke and Mr. Matthew Llanos. They observe, that 'on the strength of statements, which manifested the practicability of the enterprise, they proceeded to New York, in the month of March 1824, for the purpose of forming a company for defraying the expenses of such a work; that, having formed the company, which consisted of some of the strongest (that was their expression) houses of the northern federation, they returned to the central republic with an armed brig; on board of which they brought engineers to level the grounds and survey the lake of Nicaragua and St. John's river.' The letter continues, 'We, having despatched the said brig to her destination, at the end of last De-

cember, and being now about to proceed by land in order to examine the local situations of the territory, pray this government, in consideration of the advances already made, and the advantageous nature of the subjoined propositions (than which, we believe, none more favourable can be offered to this republic) to secure to us their realisation, by granting the exclusive privileges which we solicit.' The terms proposed to give to the government, for the exclusive privilege of navigation, twenty per cent on the annual product of the toll to be paid by vessels passing through the canal, and after the expiration of the term (the period is not mentioned) the canal to become the exclusive property of the government. The projectors required to have, '1. An exclusive privilege for the purpose; 2. An exclusive privilege for navigation by steam-boats on the rivers, and on the waters of the three provinces, as far as the lake where the said canal is to be opened; 3. Permission to cut wood in the said province; 4. Exemption from duty on the introduction of goods on account of the company, until the canal be completed.' Of the above propositions, on the part of Messrs. Barclay and Co., and of the merchants of the United States, no specific notice appears to have been taken; but on the 16th June, 1825, the Congress passed a decree which obtained the approbation of the senate on the 11th July, and was confirmed by the executive on the 12th of that month,—which promises the sanction and assistance of the state to any parties who would undertake the project, and to recognise, as a public debt, the money expended in the execution of it; the passage dues to be applied to paying off the capital sunk in its opening, and to satisfying the interest thereon, deducting, first, the expenses which the repairs of the said canal shall require; the costs of collecting the dues, and of a garrison for its defence; the navigation to be free to all nations, friendly or neutral, without any privilege or exclusion. On the 1st August, 1825, the executive extended the time for receiving proposals to six months longer. The consequence has been, that the Dutch, as I have before stated, stepped in and possessed themselves of the undertaking. When I left the republic, I felt assured that it would have been carried into execution by the British; and I cannot suppress my mortification that foreigners should have the exclusive honour, to say nothing of the advantage, of so great an enterprise; for it is one which can be but once effected amidst the noble achievements of eventful time."

We believe this prodigious plan to be perfectly practicable.

SIGHTS OF BOOKS.

The Scottish Songs. Collected and Illustrated by Robert Chambers, Author of "Traditions of Edinburgh;" "The Picture of Scotland," &c. 2 vols. 12mo. Edinburgh, 1829. Tait. *The Scottish Ballads.* Edited by the same. Same publisher. 1 vol. pp. 399.

NUMEROUS as have been the collections published of Scottish Ballads and Scottish Songs, we feel very great obligations to Mr. Chambers for this new work in the same class, handsomely printed at the Ballantyne press, of a neat form and convenient size, and in every way well adapted for popularity. Indeed, these volumes possess, above all others with which we are acquainted, one of the highest requisites for general circulation: without injuring the authenticity or spirit of the original compositions, they have been purified from grossnesses which never could produce any

other effect upon the mind of the reader, except regret that the pathos and beauty of ancient poetry should be so defiled by the juxtaposition of immodest thoughts and indecent expressions. The public owe Mr. Chambers especial thanks for the good taste he has displayed in this respect; and, looking at both his publications together as a whole, we think he has evinced as much judgment and discretion in the prevailing tone of his selection. There are a few of the songs, perhaps, which we would hardly have admitted—but they occupy no vast space, and do no harm, if they fail to charm us, among their more happy companions; and we confidently anticipate that future editions will put it in the editor's power to add other pieces, of which we miss a considerable number well deserving of that distinction.

A production of this kind does not invite extract, and therefore we have only to say, that it is at once a very complete, and a very cheap, and a very excellent collection. Oral tradition, the consultation of preceding writers and records, great assiduity, and much good sense, characterise Mr. Chambers's performance; and we are sure it will be a particular favourite, not only with the high and rich, but with the middle and even lower orders throughout the country.

Knight's Scroll Ornaments, &c. Part I. 4to. London, 1829. Griffiths.

WELL-selected and well-drawn specimens of Roman scroll friezes and other ornaments,—suitable to all the purposes for which they are designed.

Corpus Juris Civilis, &c. &c. Ediderunt C. J. Albertus et C. Mauritius, fratres Kriegllei. Lipsiæ, 1829. Imperial 8vo.

THIS very valuable work of reference seems to be proceeding with due diligence, care, and ability, if we may judge by the two fasciuli which have just reached us from Leipzig. They extend to 224 pages, and bring the Institutes of Justinian, with digests, synoptical tables, comparisons with annotators, &c. &c. in a learned and excellent form, before the legal world.

Mexico. By G. H. Ward, Esq. Second edition, enlarged. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1829. Colburn.

WE are glad to see this second and enlarged edition of the most systematic and complete work of which we are in possession respecting Mexico. Mr. Ward, as British chargé d'affaires, for more than two years, enjoyed the best opportunities for acquiring the first intelligence; and he as evidently possessed the ability to make the best use of these advantages. Thus his work is of very great value; and at this time, when the political fate of Mexico is again in the balance,—when an attempt is making to retrieve it for a Spanish dependency, and when union with North America and separate existence are equally spoken of,—it is important to have reference to a work of that high authority which these volumes possess. Not only their matter, but their maps and illustrations, render them of sterling worth and utility.

Pugin's Gothic Ornaments, selected from various Buildings in England and France. Drawn on Stone by J. D. Harding. 4to. London, 1829.

FROM the first Number of this publication we were led to expect, as the title-page sets forth, that the ornaments were to be drawn by Mr. Harding; but we see with regret, that of the

twenty plates comprising this Number, eight only are from the pencil of that artist, the others being productions of Mr. Pugin's pupils. Having noticed this departure from the terms of the prospectus, of which we hear complaints, we proceed to the more agreeable task of expressing our admiration of Mr. Pugin's useful and interesting volume, adding this admonition,—that it will be as well in future to avoid subjects which have recently appeared in other publications. The Gables at Eltham have already been accurately given in "Hunt's Parsonage Houses;" and on comparing the two works, we find that Mr. Pugin has supplied the mutilated parts of the pendant,—a very dangerous experiment, and one which, if often repeated, will invalidate his work as a book of authorities.

Dissipation in the West. By Ironicus.

London, 1829. Brookes.

A SATIRICAL pamphlet in verse; but too weak to effect any reform in the frivolous manners or vices of the fashionable world.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris.

THE English actors and actresses have arrived in a *mauvais moment*. To endure theatrical heat at this season of the year, one must either have been born beneath the torrid zone, or have submitted to the baking experiments of the incombustible man. Mrs. West has by no means answered expectation; the French audience give a decided preference to Miss Smithson. Wallack is the rising favourite, though he is reckoned rather too *academical* in his positions; but, *en revanche*, he dies à merveille.

"L'Espion de Vienne" is the novel of the day most engulphed by critics: its title excites curiosity too; and half the success of an author depends on his being able to create this sentiment. M. Alfred de Vigny has given a severe correction to his former poems, and presented the public with a second edition of them. Reviewers insist on his again chastising his muse; which is rather ungrateful on their parts, as he has already effaced and defaced the original, to please these verse-judging gentlemen, who perhaps could not compose three lines themselves. We are improving in our caricatures: five hundred were purchased the other day, called "La Marché." The subject is a lover, who sells himself to the *old gentleman*, in order to possess his mistress; but as soon as she becomes his wife, he sells her to get rid of the married chain. The conversation on the occasion between his infernal majesty and the bridegroom is truly *spirituel*.

The caprice of the weather here can only be compared to the variability of ladies' tender *penchants*; consequently, *le beau sexe* are obliged to stay at home and waste their charms on their husbands, instead of displaying them *à la promenade*, and captivating some lack-lustre exquisite. A summer lost to chance conquests is not easily regained; and no spot is more favourable to impromptu love than the shady alleys of the Tuilleries, when wind and rain do not oppose stolen interviews. It is, indeed, truly melancholy to behold some twenty tight-laced, mustachioed, strutting transcendents, frizzled and twizzled in vain, and looking, peeping, and watching for their *beloveds*: these latter wisely deem their crape bonnets of infinitely more value than the smiles and protestations of an *amant*; therefore never keep a rendezvous at the risk of injuring their dress, or catching a *rhume*: in fact, what is termed *la belle passion* here is almost always

in subjection to prudence; and, generally speaking, after the age of one and twenty, all those volcanic feelings are evaporated which in other countries outlive Time's rude marks, and lead to so many Werter-like catastrophes. I am happy to say, however, that the English custom of running fairly off with other men's wives is beginning to be adopted. Last week le Colonel de B—t and le Capitaine C—g bore triumphantly away the spouses of two rich *marchands*. The distracted husbands (for husbands always prize deserting wives) set out, post haste, on the wings of jealousy, hoping to recapture their treasures: but, whether the green-eyed monster changed colour *en chemin*, or that *Messrs. les Marchands* deemed their *aunes* unequal to measure the swords of these enterprising knights, they only went half-way, and discovered during their journey the possibility of replacing the fragile partners of their affection. This is true philosophy, and the only method to be happy, in spite of fate.

I was not a little surprised the other day, when passing through the Champs Elysées, to hear a young man of the lower class resolving the most difficult problems in mathematics: he never hesitated a moment, or waited to reflect, but replied instantaneously to the question put. What was most extraordinary, he could neither read nor write, and his eyes possessed the same calculative faculty as his mind. A gentleman who was present asked him how many were the people who surrounded him? He merely raised his head, seemed scarcely to look, and gave the exact number. His mother, who was with him, said he never could be made to learn any thing; but that he was peculiarly fond of conversing with astronomers; and sometimes of a star-light night would sit whole hours in contemplating the heavens, instead of partaking of rest. She by no means seemed proud of her son's talents; but, on the contrary, spoke of them as a proof of insanity: "*Pauvre garçon, il est bien à plaindre*," was her observation, as she terminated her relation of his singularities of disposition. Contrary to all calculators whom I have seen, he is handsome; neither does the form of his lips in the least indicate his talent—they are quite out of Lavater's rules, and within those of beauty.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

MEDICO-BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

JULY 28.—The last meeting for the season took place; Dr. Theodore Gordon, one of the vice-presidents, in the chair. The Grand Duke of Baden, and two of his royal highness's brothers, and his Royal Highness the Prince of Calabria, were elected honorary Fellows. Dr. M. Doyle of Quebec, Dr. Gladstone of Greenwich, and George Hume, Esq. were severally balloted for and elected Fellows. Mr. Frost, Dr. Sigmond, and Dr. Whiting, were re-elected Professors of Botany, Toxicology, and Materia Medica. These gentlemen severally returned thanks. Dr. Whiting stated, in particular, that though, during the past year, he had not been enabled to impart much information to the Society, yet he had derived great benefit from its proceedings; of which he had availed himself not only in his lectures to his pupils, but at the bed-sides of his patients. The chairman announced that the annual oration would be delivered on the 10th of November, and that candidates for the Society's gold and silver medals must send in their communications before the first of January, 1830. P. Sandoz, Esq. was admitted a corresponding

member. On the table was placed a fine collection of plants, most of them rare, and many of them unique, from the King's Gardens at Kew; presented by Mr. Aiton, and well-arranged by Mr. Cunningham.

St. Petersburg, July 21.

BARON ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT arrived at Perm on the 13th of June.

As the baron is going to examine the mines of the Oural, the following particulars of the elevation of the mountains will be found interesting.

Colonel Terletzky of Catherineburg, the first who has measured the elevation of the summits of the southern chain of the Oural, by means of the barometer, has communicated the following results of his operations to the *Northern Bee*.

Names of the Mountains.	Perpendicular height in English feet.
Great Taganai, eighteen wersts from the works of Zlatoust; the centre peak is above the level of the sea, at 45° latitude	3675-9
Above the level of the river Ai, at the sluice of the works	2566-5
The level of the Ai at Zlatoust is therefore above that of the ocean	1109-4
Little Taganai, the centre peak above the sea	3375-8
Above the Ai at Zlatoust	2206-2
Oural Tsau, the extinct volcano in the curl of the ridge, twelve wersts from Zlatoust, towards Mtsak, above the sea	2584-6
Above the Ai at Zlatoust	1423-6
Yourma Mountain, the most elevated extinct volcano, above the sea	3367-3
Above the river Sikaega, before the gold mine of Solomoff	2263-0
Above lake Oufa,* whence the river of the same name issues	1645
Ourenges, at Zlatoust, above the sea	1567-2
Above the Ai	503-4
Aousch (Oushkoul), near the gold mine of St. Anne, held sacred by the Bashkirs, above the sea	1028-6
Above lake Oushkoul	703-6

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

BURTON'S TRILINGUAL TABLET:

Hieroglyphics.

THE rising importance of the investigation of the hieroglyphical literature and inscriptions of the ancient Egyptians has been rapidly extending the interest in this subject, from being confined to the learned and curious, throughout every rank of intellectual society. It has spread all over the continent of Europe; and now not only occupies a marked share of the attention of the studious inquirer and antiquary, but engages the active enterprise of scientific expeditions, and of many intelligent individuals of different nations. Among the latter, the *Literary Gazette* of the 4th ult. distinguished the name of Mr. James Burton; and established his claim to the discovery of a very important memorial connected with the explanation of hieroglyphic characters. Referring to that statement (explaining as it did the means by which this memorial had passed from the knowledge of the English discoverer into the possession of the French Consul at Cairo, Drovetti), we have here to resume the matter, and are happy to have it in our power to afford additional information respecting this transaction, and throw further and interesting light on the general inquiry.

We have on our table the lithographed copies of the hieroglyphic and Greek portions of the Trilingual Inscription (the tablet containing which we have, in honour of its discoverer, taken upon us to name the *Burton Tablet*); neither the enchorial, or middle, division (between the hieroglyphic and the Greek), nor the plaster-cast of the whole fragment, having yet reached

* Thus it appears that the level of Zlatoust and lake Oufa is nearly the same as that of the lake of Geneva, about 1250-6 English feet above the sea.

this country, though both are daily expected, and will probably arrive under the care of Lord Prudhoe, who has taken so prominent a part in the exploration of Egyptian antiquities.

This fragment occupied the threshold of a doorway, at the top of a broken flight of steps in a ruinous part of the Mosque Giamma Emir Yakoub; and it is of the same kind of rock as the famous Rosetta Stone. Mr. Burton's discovery of it was not casual, but the result of an active search, continued at intervals during five successive years; and during the few days he was allowed to retain it, he experienced considerable difficulty in making these copies, owing to the labour of moving so ponderous a body in the changes of position requisite for deciphering the more obscure letters and figures.

A transcript, similar to that which we possess, having been presented to the Royal Society of Literature, a special council of that Society was immediately convened, to consider of the expediency of publishing so remarkable a document;* and a committee, consisting of the Right Hon. C. Yorke, Col. Leake, Mr. Baber, and other members, was appointed to take the proper measures for that purpose. In their opinion—(which they have permitted us to insert in our journal, and for which we are the more indebted to them, seeing that the two first-mentioned gentlemen are of the highest authority which could be quoted on any question of hieroglyphic learning),—the two imperfect inscriptions were not sufficient to call for immediate publicity; and it was resolved to wait for the arrival of the enchorial or demotic part—of the plaster cast—and of the more complete copies of the portions already received, before resorting to ulterior measures. Thus the matter rests at present.

With regard to the specimens now in England, we may briefly describe their appearance. The first (or hieroglyphic) sheet is about 6½ inches wide, and eleven inches high on one side, ten inches on the other; for it should be observed, that the top is part (half) of an arch, and that the fragment appears to be half of the original tablet, broken or cut off through the centre perpendicularly. About five inches of this superior are occupied with the figures in the procession, with indications of their names (as usual) over their heads, which, we regret to say, are, here, too indistinct to allow us to make them out. Below follow thirty hieroglyphic lines, the first twenty almost utterly illegible, but the last ten in better preservation. In the fifth of the latter we perceive the name of Berenice twice, and in the sixth the same name once, quite plain and obvious. [The enchorial and “least injured” part, in twenty-seven lines will, when the impression comes, interpose between the hieroglyphic and Greek.] Our copy of the Greek is nearly the same size as the preceding, and consists of seventy-three lines, or rather indications and ends of lines, towards the outer edge of the tablet, of which we can merely decipher a few letters, or a word here and there, affording us no insight into the import of the record. Nor could this well be expected; for our readers should be aware (as was ingeniously seen at a glance, and pointed out by Mr. Yorke) that the hieroglyphics being read from right to left, and the Greek from left to right, these scanty terminations of the latter were not likely to furnish

much information. Under these circumstances, we wait the next arrivals with much impatience; trusting that, as far as we have gone, we have made the subject as intelligible as could be done without engravings, and promising to give the latter gratuitously to our subscribers in an extra sheet of the *Literary Gazette*, should future intelligence* render it expedient, either for their instruction, or to establish our national claim to the honour of resuscitating this interesting monument of remote antiquity.

It is very agreeable to us to be able in the same Number of our publication to pursue this theme still farther, by the addition of the most recent intelligence connected with it, that has transpired;—and the following extract of a letter from the Austrian Consul-general, Acerbi, on the Obelisks of Cleopatra, *vulgo*, “Cleopatra’s Needles,” possesses great interest:—

“The first visit which our friend Champollion paid to the various ruins in this quarter was devoted to the obelisks still existing amongst them: one of them makes a handsome appearance when viewed even at a considerable distance, and this one has been christened by the name of Cleopatra’s Needle. At first sight, Champollion remarked a circumstance which had escaped every former observer, namely, that the hieroglyphics which cover these two obelisks (the one of which is standing, and the other lying upon the ground) appertain to three different periods. The most ancient occupy the column or space in the middle of each face, and were wrought when the obelisks themselves were erected, by order, or rather in honour of the sovereign, who caused these superb monuments to be constructed. These inscriptions, on which we will bestow the name of *primitives*, in reference to the lateral columns, inform us that king Thouthmosis III. directed the two obelisks to be set up before the temple of the god Phrè (Sol) at Eliopolis, in honour of his parent, the Sun himself. This sovereign lived about 1700 years before the vulgar era. All the lateral columns of characters are of some centuries’ later date. They contain the titles and panegyric of Rhameses the Great, the Sesostris of western historians. This prince embellished the temple of Eliopolis, imitating the example set him by his ancestor, and thus deserved both the royal legend as well as the praises bestowed upon him, which stand beside those of Thouthmosis III., the Moeris of Greek writers. Finally, on the eastern and northern faces, and inserted betwixt the columns in honour of Rhameses the Great and the corners of the obelisk, stand two inscriptions in diminutive characters, which have never been detected before. They contain the royal legend of Rhameses VII. (Pharaoh or Sesostris II.), the son of Rhameses the Great, who, having conferred munificent donations, and made several additions to the temple of Eliopolis, which was one of the most celebrated in Egypt, caused his name to be inscribed by the side of that of his father.

“Our viceroy, Mehemet Ali Pasha, who is by no means indifferent to whatever attracts the attention of Europeans, was desirous of receiving some information regarding these monuments, one of which, as you are probably aware, was placed at the disposal of the English government, whenever they might choose to pay the expense of transporting it. Mehemet

Ali, therefore, requested M. Champollion to acquaint him with the meaning of the signs with which the obelisk is loaded; and M. C. did not omit to satisfy his highness’ curiosity before he took his departure for Cairo. I have obtained, and now enclose, a copy of the explanation itself, which is thus worded:—

“Translation of the principal face, repeated on the two obelisks of Alexandria, which are vulgarly styled the Needles of Cleopatra. ‘The powerful sovereign of divine race, the friend of justice, the king of Upper Egypt and of Lower Egypt, he who has defended his country with his arm, the resplendent monarch, the head of the public assemblies, like the Deity who has established the order of the world, the lord of the universe who watches over the peace of the globe, the son of the Sun, *Thouthmosis*, has made rich offerings to the Supreme, to the King of the heavenly hosts. The princely lord of the universe who watches over the repose of the world, the son of the Sun, and lord of diadems, has raised these two obelisks before the temple of the Sun at Eliopolis (*Matharich*), in honour of the Sun, his father, who has given him being, to day and for ever.’” M. Champollion has not hitherto given us any translation beyond that of the two principal faces.

“P. S.—Before I despatch this letter by the captain of an Austrian vessel, I shall pay another visit to the site of the obelisks, and leisurely examine every part of them *de novo*.—

“* * * And now, having once more considered all the circumstances with greater attention, I think I may draw the following conclusions: The guasto at the base of the obelisk was not made in Alexandria, but in Eliopolis; and it was not the work of the Romans, but of the Persians. The obelisks were secured to the pedestal, not with their present pivots, but with others; the Persians, for the purpose of upsetting them, having cut away their bases, so that they might the more readily apply a lever. The Romans found them handsome and prostrated at a time when they were desirous of applying them to the embellishment of Caesar’s temple; otherwise they would not have treated them so merclessly. The metallic pivots, which exist at this day, were inserted by those who erected the obelisks on the spot where they now stand.”

We have also seen M. Klaproth’s very curious *Observations critiques sur la Découverte de l’Alphabet Hieroglyphique*, published about a month ago in Paris, and we take this early opportunity of noticing them, because that distinguished antiquary and linguist has ably contended for the right of our lamented countryman, the late Dr. Young, to the honour of having first discovered the key to Egyptian hieroglyphics. The Observations above mentioned are intended as an introduction, or preface, to a very splendid work, entitled, *Collection d’Antiquités Egyptiennes, recueillies par M. le Chevalier de Palin, publiées par MM. Dorou et Klaproth*.—Another work of great merit has just appeared, in which the lights thrown by these Egyptian monuments on Scripture history are ably demonstrated. We trust to give an ample and early account of this production.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

THE Murillo lately exhibited at the British Institution (No. 167), has been removed; and St. Chrysogonus carried up to Heaven by Angels, introduced. This picture originally filled a

* This seemed to be peculiarly fitting for a Society whose publication of hieroglyphic inscriptions (separately from its own transactions) has done so much for their study, and so greatly excited the public mind. Copies of these fasciculi (not confined to members), we should add, for general information, are yet to be procured.

* Though this is the only trilingual memorial which has been brought forward since the Rosetta Stone led to Dr. Young’s important theory, and M. Champollion’s improvement thereon, we trust that others will yet be found. Colonel Leake, already mentioned, saw one in a house in Cairo; but unfortunately lost sight of it during the military operations that ensued. Where it is now, is unknown.

compartment in the church dedicated to the saint in Rome, and may be considered as the master-piece of Guercino. It is in the most perfect state of preservation, and forms a new and splendid feature in the present exhibition.

BRISTOL INSTITUTION.

WE are informed by a correspondent that the Exhibition of Paintings and Sculptures in this place closed on Saturday, the 25th of July, and that it had been well attended, and contained works of the highest merit—among which were the portrait of Lord Eldon, and the Flower-Girl, by Sir Thomas Lawrence; several by the late Edward Bird, R.A.; others by W. Daniel, R.A.; also by T. Stothard, R.A.; the late President Benjamin West; Sir Joshua Reynolds; J. M. Turner, R.A.; W. Ety, R.A.; R. Smirke, R.A.; F. Danby, R.A.; H. P. Briggs, R.A.; Sir W. Beechey, R.A.; Henry Howard, R.A.; Benjamin and Thomas Barker; T. C. Hoiland; H. P. Bone; and others of high class and character in art. Among the sculptures were, E. H. Baily's enchanting figure of Eve, and a bust of the late James Watt, Esq. by Chantrey. In all there were 149 performances, out of which 45 only were for sale. The number sold is not generally known—for no mark is put, as in other exhibitions. Upon the whole, the collection afforded a fair sample of native talent as well as of native patronage, as may be inferred from the proportion of pictures sent by their liberal proprietors, in aid of the promotion of taste, and the encouragement of the fine arts, in the city of Bristol and its surrounding neighbourhood.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Engraved Illustrations of Ancient Arms and Armour. From the Drawings, and with the Descriptions, of Dr. Meyrick; by Joseph Skelton, F.S.A. Part XIX.

"INDIAN Arms and Armour;" "Jazerine Armour, A.D. 1485;" "Two Patrons and a Touch-box;" "A Long Sword, with Double Guard, A.D. 1615;" "Crossbows, called Latches;" and "Armour of the Infantry, A.D. 1625;" are the illustrations, and the explanations of them form the descriptions, of this Part. The plate of Indian armour is peculiarly rich and beautiful. Dr. Meyrick says, with reference to it: "At Mundavie, in the Gulf of Cutch in the north part of India, is a manufactory for making armour and shields of rhinoceros' and buffaloes' hides. The pieces are boiled in oil till they become transparent; and such is the process, that they are rendered proof against the edge of a sabre, and, it is asserted, even against a bullet. The splendid suit of armour exhibited in this plate being of that description, in all probability belonged to the Rajah of the Guzerat; and from the inscription upon it, beginning with an invocation to Ali, we find he was a Sheer, a religious sect violently opposed to the Sunia. The Persians are of the former class, the Turks of the latter. It was once in the collection of his Royal Highness the late Duke of York."

Hall's Atlas. XV.

ANOTHER excellent Part of this excellent publication, containing, 1. the Western Hemisphere, 2. Asia, and 3. North America. We cannot help noticing, with much praise for their liberality, that the proprietors announce four maps, instead of three, in each of the two concluding Parts (to be published this year); thus giving their subscribers eight instead of six expensive engravings without any addition to the cost. The work, indeed, has been very

widely encouraged; but it is not often that public favour meets with so grateful and pleasing a return.

Picturesque Views on the River Clyde. Engraved by Joseph Swan, from drawings by J. Fleming: with Historical and Descriptive Illustrations by J. M. Leighton. Part IX. "Clock Light-House," "View of Dunoon and Castle," and "Kelly House," form the embellishments of the ninth Part of this pretty publication.

Charles V. visiting Francis I. after the Battle of Pavia. R. P. Bonington; J. D. Harding lithog. From a drawing in the possession of Clarkson Stanfield, Esq. Carpenter and Son.

AN admirable specimen of poor Bonington's high talents, and an additional proof of what he must have accomplished had his life been prolonged. This fascinating little sketch (for, powerful as it is, it is still but a sketch) unites some of the finest qualities of the Venetian and Flemish schools. Mr. Harding also has acquitted himself in a masterly manner. It is really surprising to see of what lithography, when in the hands of an able artist, is capable. The print has all the facility yet firmness, delicacy yet depth, of the original drawing.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

HANNIBAL CROSSING THE ALPS.

"Prægressus signa Hannibal in promontorio quodam, unde longè et latè prospectuerat, consistere jussit militibus Italiam ostentat, subjectoque Alpibus montibus circum Padanos campos."—*Liv.* lib. xvi.

He stood—earth's mightiest rampart gain'd at length,

Where, proudly rising with its crest of snow,
The rifted mountain rears its giant strength,
In stern defiance of the tempests' blow:
Above him shine the eternal heavens—
below, [steep;
The avalanche thunders from the yielding
And with wild voice, ascending as they flow
From rock to rock, the maddened waters leap,
To hide their sullen wrath, where night and
horror sleep.

A thousand are at hand—the warlike boast
Of sultry Afric's yet unbending pride,
Dark-featured leaders of that countless host
Which throngs from echoing wood and torrent's side—

Numidia's horseman, swift and falcon-eyed;
The fierce Getulian, with his lance of cane,
Thy chosen, queenly Carthage! peril-tried;
Joined with the gleaming helms, and blades of Spain;
And, like a breathing flood, fair Gaul's embattled train.

Before him, in the fading distance, lies
Italia—glorious as a summer-dream,
With fields which laugh beneath those cloudless skies;

And haunted grove, and ever tuneful stream;
And hills, where, brightening in the sportive beam,
The vine's light gems their liquid hues unfold;
And all that meets the vision might besem
The guiltless time by poets sung of old,
Ere banished Saturn fled, and waned his age of gold.

On, Warrior, on! even now thy dread career
Demands thee. Trebia's dim and wintry day,
And Thrasimene with her lake of fear,
And that red plain and desolating fray,
When War's avenging Deity shall lay
Rome's first and proudest as the nameless low;

And Tiber, winding on his rippling way,
Shall hear the midnight wail ascending slow
From lips which breathe despair—a nation's cry of woe!

A light is on thy path of danger now,
Where Hope, the phantom, iris-throned appears:

A little while, and that forsaken brow
Shall droop—though not beneath the weight of years;

Affliction, anguish, shame, and fruitless tears,

The tyrant's menace, and the poisoned bowl:
Alas! not such the pile which Fancy rears
Within the workings of the lofty soul
Which spreads o'er subject earth its measureless control.

Cholera.

J. F. HOLLINGS.

SONG:

Set to Music by Dr. Kaser.

AH, no! she loves me not; those eyes
Too plainly say my hopes are vain:
She pities not a lover's sighs,—
She never felt a lover's pain.

No! she, like night's all-beauteous queen,
Smiling o'er ocean's troubled breast,
Bereaves this troubled heart of rest,—
Herself unmoved, untouched, serene.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

THE KING: ROYALTIES.

WE do not believe there is an individual in the British empire at this period (and it is an extraordinary thing to say) who does not take an interest in the personal happiness of our popular and gracious Monarch, and wish him long to enjoy life and health. Our present little peep, therefore, behind the curtain cannot but be acceptable. At his cottage at Windsor, when relaxing from the weighty affairs of state, the King almost daily goes out in his pony phaeton, drawn by a pair of as beautiful and perfectly trained animals as could well be fancied. His Majesty drives himself, and generally sweeps along at the rate of ten miles an hour; shewing himself a dexterous as well as graceful charioteer. To vary this exercise, riding on horseback has been mentioned, and some preparations made: but even kings are not omnipotent; and it is curious to find that a difficulty of procuring a horse powerful enough, and yet of a kind to suit the royal rider, has hitherto prevented this design from being carried into effect. To drive merely, without an object, would soon become tiresome; and we rejoice to hear that our Sovereign devotes himself with great ardour and pleasure to the superintendence and direction of various improvements continually making in his fine and noble park. The formation of new roads, the laying down of lawns, the erection of tasteful buildings, alteration in lakes and waterfalls, planting, and all those other quiet and charming pursuits which occupy the well-disposed time of a country gentleman, and employ without wearying the mind, are the favourite recreations of his Majesty in retirement, and contribute greatly to that state of vigour which he so happily possesses.* At this particular moment, too, we are glad to find his Majesty engaged in a work not only congenial to such occupations as we

* Among other reports respecting his Majesty's movements, it was confidently said that a visit to Paris was contemplated, and had been almost positively promised to the Duke of Orleans: it would be a glorious thing, and we regret to hear that it is not very certain, now, to be carried into effect, though the month of October is yet mentioned as the period, should his Majesty find it agreeable to perform this welcome journey, and renew the days of the cloth of gold.

have described, but partaking of a higher character, as a tribute of filial affection and lasting national remembrance. We allude to the grand equestrian statue of George III. which has been so long under the able hands of Westmacott, and for the elevation of which the site was last week directed to be prepared. It is generally known that this production of the sculptor's art is designed by our illustrious King to commemorate the virtues of his good and venerable father. It is to be placed on a certain spot in that superb vista called the Long Walk, which is seen with so much advantage from the towers of Windsor, and leads towards the rural residence of his present Majesty; so that whenever he passes to and from his abode and his palace, this object will strike his attention. The site will in itself be commanding, and the statue, from its position and magnitude, have a grand effect. The ground, enclosed by a palisade, is to be 150 feet square; and within this there is to be a platform of masonry, forty feet square in the base, and elevated about thirty feet. Surmounting this will be the statue, about twenty-five feet in height, the figure of our late revered King on horseback, with his arm extended and pointing to Windsor, as if still protecting the place which in life he loved. We have only seen drawings of this; but if we may judge from them, the monument, which is nearly finished, will be the most impressive erection of the kind (even independently of its high associations) which has ever been executed in this country:—a great effort of art, a just tribute to a lamented monarch, and an immortal honour to the heart of his son and successor.

DRAMA.

KING'S THEATRE.

ON Saturday last, or, more properly speaking, on Sunday morning, to the great mortification of many a *Masaniello*-mad miss, and *Desdemona*-mad dandy, the doors of Laporte were closed for the season. The *Gli Orazi e i Curiazj* of Cimarosa was the fashionable finale. In a former Number, our opinion of the departed composer will be found. Had this opera been produced earlier in the season, we should have suggested to the management the propriety of reforming the cast altogether. The part of *Curiazj* was originally composed for a voice like that of Velluti; and though we think the composer was in error in not assigning that character to a tenor, and the part of *Horatius* to a basso-cantante, (inasmuch as we think no opera can be perfect without its vocal base); yet, for musical, though perhaps not for dramatic effect, the preference must be given to the original cast. Two tenors and one contralto approximate too nearly in tone to produce in concerted pieces striking and effective harmony. To have made, as it is technically termed, "a decided hit," this opera should have been cast as follows:—*Horatia*, Blasis—the part having been originally composed for a soprano; *Marcus Horatius*, Donzelli—with strict injunctions to moderate his tone* and spare his lungs; and *Curiazj*, either by Malibran or Pisanoni; though, perhaps, where so much would depend upon declamation, and particularly a judicious conception of the character, the part had been safer in the hands of the latter.

* This artist forces his voice, and that too most unnecessarily, to a fault: the consequence is, that he not unfrequently sings excessively *sharp*, a defect unpardonable in a vocalist. A singer, from temporary indisposition, or from the pitch being above his reach, may sing *flat*—but to sing sharp, no physical defect can be pleaded in excuse, but that of want of ear.

We cannot, on looking back through the season, retract a single opinion which we have as cautiously as conscientiously advanced respecting these performances. They have never been precipitately made, nor are they characterised by any thing bordering upon indiscriminate praise. We have neither favoured this artist nor that; but have studied the interest of all, and have throughout acted the part of real friends, by pointing out faults, and censuring in the right, instead of flattering the vanity of individuals by applauding in the wrong, place.

In conclusion, we are happy to inform our readers, that Laporte has already made some of the most attractive engagements. Lalande, and the celebrated base La Blache, (a colossus in stature,) together with Donzelli, Curioni, and though last, not least, Blasis, are retained for the ensuing season. There is also some prospect of Pasta returning in the month of May. We are sorry to hear that the season which has just closed has not been a profitable one to the manager, and we are astonished to learn, from an authentic source, that the season of 1828, which was said to be so very productive, did not yield a profit to the then managers, Messrs. Laurent and Laporte, although the rent was several thousand pounds lower than that of 1829, of more than 1,800*l.* in which sum was included the additions to the wardrobe, scenery, &c. If, as is stated, but we know not how truly, the receipts of the past season were less than those of 1828, M. Laporte must have sustained a considerable loss.

So: *Fermes La-porte!*

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

Nothing Superfluous—a one-act drama, from the French, was produced here on Wednesday. It is the work of Mr. Thompson, an actor, who played in it, and embodies the ancient story of a sultan, who proves, by experiment on Sadi, (a poor wretch whom he raises gradually to the highest power and enjoyment,) that there is no bound to human desires. Mr. Thompson was the *Sultan*, J. Reeve *Sadi*, and Mrs. H. Corri his pretty wife:—the first was guilty of that considerable force which, upon the stage, is usually called ranting; the second, of giving the coarsest point to situations and equivokes (if unequivocal prurencies may pass under that name); and the third, of nothing but looking, acting, and singing, in a very pleasing manner. Notwithstanding the offence which the mincing of modern morality has softened into the phrase of being rather too broad—*i.e.* rather indecent—this piece was not condemned; but we should be sorry to see it, or any thing like it, keep possession of these boards. Nor is such prop necessary: for the remaining entertainments of the evening were more than sufficient to amuse and gratify any audience, as they certainly did the crowded house assembled on this occasion. *Charles XII.* extremely well performed; with Farren and Liston making every theatrical hit, and it is full of them, tell to the utmost;—the *Happiest Day of my Life*, improving as it runs, being indeed one of the cleverest farcical travesties of human nature which has appeared for a long while;—and *Maneuvering*, an established favourite; in which three pieces, Mrs. Glover, Mrs. Humby, Mr. Cooper, and other good actors, have efficient parts, and are enough to satisfy any expectations of a merry night at the Haymarket.

THE revival of *Der Freyschütz*, and the acting of Miss Kelly in the *Sister of Charity*, continue to crowd the English Opera House. An opera on a very grand scale, and which has

produced a great sensation in Germany, is in rehearsal here. Drury Lane is beautifying for the winter campaign; and Covent Garden remains in *statu quo*. There is no certainty yet of its opening at all: Mr. Laurent, and Mr. Davidge of the Coburg, it is reported, have made offers; but nothing definitive has taken place.

VARIETIES.

Monuments.—An easy and cheap mode of cleaning old monuments has been invented by a French chemist. He scrubs them with a brush dipped in water, sharpened with hydrochloric acid—twelve ounces of the acid to twelve (French) pints of water.

Elocution.—Among our Advertisements this week, we notice the name of Mr. Jones from Edinburgh, as a teacher of this necessary branch of liberal education; and have merely to observe, that our letters from the Modern Athens speak in very high terms of the eminent success that has hitherto attended this gentleman's labours.

A curious exhibition is now attracting the public at Agen, in France. Two Italians have a number of pigeons which are placed in cages, and from ten to twelve of the same colour are put together. By dint of great patience and perseverance they have been taught several feats of the most varied nature, and quite opposed to their usual habits. As soon as the cages are opened, the pigeons ascend, mix together, and fly away; but, on a signal, those of the same colour separate from the rest and come back together, each flight entering the appropriate cage. Carpets of different colours are placed upon the ground, and nets being spread, each flight, on a given signal, go to the carpet or to the net pointed out for it. A flight of pigeons is next let loose, and a sportsman having fired over them, they instantly fly to him and enter his game-bag. This bird, which never before has been seen to mix in martial exercises, upon this occasion places itself before the gun which is about to be fired at it, and does not move when it is discharged; it even takes a lighted match in its beak, and perches itself upon a cannon, which it discharges by applying the match to the touch-hole.

A watchmaker of Memmingen lately announced in the *Courrier Commercial de Dantzig*, that he had just finished a watch of his invention, at which he had worked for thirteen consecutive years. It is made of wood, and not the smallest quantity of metal was used in its composition. The watch, it appears, only requires to be wound up once in three months; and when it is necessary to do so, it makes a report as loud as that of a twelve pounder. The inventor, M. Pippen, will give a twenty years' warranty, and the price he asks for it is 6000 ducats. He states that the Grand Duke of Hesse offered him 5000 ducats for it, which he refused.

Flying!—It is stated, in a letter from Vienna, that a Frenchman is now in that city who has really brought to perfection the long-desired art of flying in the air. He is said to have reached, in his last essay, a height of more than nine hundred feet, and to have then proceeded, with perfect ease, for a great distance, horizontally. No particulars are given, to enable us to judge of the merits of this pretended invention, nor is it stated when the experiment in question was performed.

Announcement.—The following curious notice appeared in a French paper of the 25th ult.: "*Nautical Carriages.*—To-morrow, at six o'clock in the evening, and on Monday the

27th, at seven o'clock, several nautical experiments will be made at the basin of Villette. A man will walk upon the water in such a way, that his feet will not go below the surface; and several nautical tilburys will traverse the basin. An experiment was made with one of these carriages at Bagatelle on the 20th of April last, in the presence of the Duke of Bordeaux, who walked some time upon the water. The inventor, who has obtained a patent, received the most flattering testimonies from his royal highness and all the persons of the court, of the satisfaction which they had derived from this ingenious invention."

Sicily.—The Gazette of the two Sicilies announces, on the authority of letters from La Pomille and Calabria, that the crops of corn and oil promise to be extremely abundant this year.

New Post-Office.—This fine building will not be opened so early as the 12th, but it is expected in the course of the month.

The fashionable novel is "La Femme du Monde!" it is said to possess much merit. Reviewers rate it high; but to me it appeared, not "a twice-told tale," but a thousandth-told tale.—*A propos*, a new work is about to appear, "La Vie du Diable!" and I trust, at all events, that the life of his infernal majesty will be more interesting than that of earthly sovereigns.—*Paris Letter.*

March of the Pencil!—Ye Granbys and Marlboroughs! ye Green-men and Duke's heads! away with your squinting glories to the tombs of your parish limners! For the Austrian has trod upon your necks; and the same pencil which has adorned the imperial palace with the effigy of its living master, has immortalised the shop-front of Mr. Joseph Moser, a practitioner of pharmacy at Vienna, by whole-length figures of Hygeia, Flora, Hippocrates, and Galen, with which the admirers of the plastic art are said to be, justly, in raptures. We are unable to decide whether this new tide in the affairs of sign-painting have been blown up by a "puff direct" from Mein herr Moser, or a "puff oblique" from Ferdinand Waldmüller, who is in high repute as a portrait-painter in the Austrian metropolis.

French Roads.—The expense of maintaining a good road in France is 82*l.*, and in England 128*l.*, for every three miles; and our French neighbours ascribe the difference to the partial and jobbing spirit of our two or three thousand highway despots, who cry reform over public grievances, whilst they are swelling the catalogue of local wrongs and corruptions. The public roads of France extend over a surface of 20,047 miles, and the total cost of maintaining that portion of them (viz. 10,720 miles) which is in a finished state, is 879,040*l.*; but the repairs of a similar line in England would amount to 1,372,160*l.*, or more than half as much again! It is stated that the system of Macadamising had been practised long before the time of M'Adam, by one Favier in the Haute-Saône, and one Husson in the Ain.

Irish Loyalty.—The newspapers have lately teemed with stories of disaffection and insurrection in Ireland; to balance which, in some degree, we beg to revive a characteristic anecdote of Hibernian loyalty. A true-hearted son of the sod, who had by pushing hard obtained the distinction of shaking hands with the King on his visit to Ireland, in a moment of elevation held up his honoured *manus*, exclaiming, "Luk there! that is the very right hand which the King, God bless him! shuk; and, by my soul! it is as clane there as ever; for—I have never washed it since!"

Crabs migratory through the air.—The miracle has been explained: the crabs which fell in a shower of rain at Ryegate, were stolen by a fellow, who, being rather closely looked after by the original owner, swore to him that they had dropped into his garden during the storm!

At a recent sitting of the Academy of Sciences in Paris, a paper was read by M. Roulin on the ergot in Indian corn (*mais*); in which it was stated, that the use of the corn in this state in South America produces epidemic diseases, and has the singular property of causing the hair of the head to fall off. Pigs fed with this corn also lose their hair, and shew symptoms of paralysis in the hind quarters.

It is stated in a French paper, that by removing the flowers from the potato-plant as soon as they are fully blown, the quantity of the crop of the potato is increased one-fourth.

At the last sitting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, a paper was read on the pasture lands of France; in which it is stated, that if the 5,775,000 hectares of pasture-land now used in France were properly improved, they would give, instead of the present net revenue of 282,000,000 francs, no less a sum than 863,000,000 francs!

Pruning.—A Belgian horticulturist announces that he has discovered a perfect cure for the injury inflicted upon fruit-trees in pruning, to prevent the flow of sap, or, as it is called in Belgium, gum. He cuts with a sharp instrument, in shape like a spatula, immediately round the wound, and having removed all the injured part, washes it with the juice of sorrel, and fills up the cavity with a kind of paste made from the pounded leaves of the same plant: this is then covered over with any substance, to exclude the external air, and the application is considered complete.

Large Fruit.—It is stated in a French horticultural work, that at the last exhibition of the Horticultural Society at Courtra, nine pears of the *bons-chrétiens* species were exhibited, which weighed from fifteen to seventeen French ounces each; a Colmar pear weighed one pound and a half; and an English rennet one pound and two ounces.

Union of Humanity and Recreation.—Our friends of the Printers' Pension Society have invited us to embark in the Venus steam-packet for an excursion to the Nore, with Admiralty leave to visit a ship of war in the Medway, on Monday, for the benefit of the Institution and of our own health. Sorry are we that our labours for the printers in another way deny us this trip; but we do not the less advise luckier people to have a sail, a sight, a dance on board, and a day of social enjoyment.

Gurney's Steam-Carriage.—A rather long journey has been performed, by way of experiment, with this carriage: the account published complains of many delays in procuring the supplies of fuel, &c., and of a savage attack of the populace near Devizes; but asserts, that in every respect the machinery wrought well, and answered the hopes of the proprietors. — A steam-carriage on a different principle is also vouched for by another inventor, as being perfectly successful; and Mr. Brown likewise offers to shew his gas-engine power complete to any philosophical or mechanical inquirer.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

Messrs. Whittaker and Co. are, we understand, making arrangements for the regular publication of three Series of Popular Histories, under the respective titles of the Cabinet of Literary, Philosophical, Scientific, and Political

History. The co-operation of very distinguished writers has been either promised or procured; and the collection bids fair to be a valuable addition to our national literature.

Early in next season will appear the History of the Arab Domination in Spain, by William Fraser, Esq.; the work is already in great forwardness, and is expected to make about two octavo volumes.

The Memoirs of the celebrated Dr. Doddridge is, we learn, postponed till next season: from a copy in our possession, we can speak highly of it, appear when it may.

A prospectus has been issued of a new publication, which, from the names attached to it, greatly excites our expectations. It is to be entitled Italy, and consist of a new illustrated Road-Book of the Route from London to Naples; with Twenty-four highly finished Views, from Original Drawings by Prout, Stanfield, and Brockedon (the editor); engraved by William and Edward Finden. It is to appear in various sizes, and in Parts, probably at intervals of two months—not exceeding three.

A collection of Spanish and Portuguese Airs, by the most esteemed Composers of those Countries, is announced for publication by subscription. It is to be called Peninsular Melodies; the poetry principally by Mrs. Hemans; and selected and compiled by George Lloyd Hodges, Esq.

There is preparing for publication, Tales of an Indian Camp, by J. A. Jones, Esq., who long resided among the Indian tribes of North America.

Natural History.—M. Michel Carrier, an eminent naturalist of Savoy, has issued proposals for forming, by subscription, a Geological Collection of the whole range of the Alps. The collection will contain all the Minerals, Metals, and Fossils, which have already been found; or which M. Carrier may discover, in the Alpine Chain; a space occupying 2,600 square leagues, in which are situated the highest mountains of Europe, and which contain formations the most rich in objects of inorganic nature, as well as in the spoils of primeval ages, and composed of strata the most varied, and abounding in interesting geological facts of every kind! Eight years will be necessary to finish this great work; and eighty subscribers at 18*0*s.** each are required.

In the Press.—Blackstone's Commentaries, brought down to 1829.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Hosack's Memoir of De Witt Clinton, 4to. 2*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* — Turner's (Sir James) Memoirs, 4to. 1*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* — Carpenter's Orthographical Assistant, 3d edition, 18mo. 2*s.* 6*d.* — Merry Thoughts for Merry Moments, plain, 5*s.* 6*d.* coloured, 7*s.* 6*d.* — Book of Fate, 18th edition, 8vo. 5*s.* 6*d.* — Watkin's Conveyancing, by Morley Cooke, 8vo. 14*s.* 6*d.* 6*d.*

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1829.

July.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday... 30	From 46. to 70.	29.66 to 29.78
Friday... 31	48. — 67.	29.78 — 29.99
August.		
Saturday... 1	42. — 68.	30.10 — 30.13
Sunday... 2	43. — 73.	30.13 — 30.22
Monday... 3	49. — 69.	30.00 — 29.98
Tuesday... 4	45. — 62.	29.76 Stationary
Wednesday 5	48. — 65.	29.77 to 29.94

Prevailing wind, S.W.

Alternately clear and cloudy; a thunder-storm on the afternoon of the 30th ult., and a remarkably heavy shower of rain about ten o'clock in the evening of the 4th inst.

Rain fallen, 1-1 inch, of which .475 fell during the heavy shower above mentioned.

Meteors.—Scarcely an evening passes without innumerable small meteors: in the evening of the 3d instant, about half-past ten, a meteor of extraordinary brilliancy traversed a few degrees of the north-eastern part of our hemisphere: the meteor itself disappeared in about two seconds, though the countless sparks of light left in its track remained visible about five seconds.

Edmonton. CHARLES H. ADAMS.
Latitude..... 51° 37' 38" N.
Longitude..... 0 3 51 W. of Greenwich.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

An Extract from the Genealogy of the Swan Family.—"Another Sir William Swan, who was the chief ornament of this family, was an eminent man of King Charles the Second's party, on whom he attended during his exile abroad; and after the king's restoration was created a baronet: this was in 1664. He was sent envoy to the court of Brandenburg and some other German courts, and was accompanied by (as his secretary) the celebrated John Locke, Esq., author of the Essay on Human Understanding, &c. &c. His son William dying without issue male, the title became extinct." [Is not this the person called Sir W. Swan in Lord King's Life of Locke?—Ed. L. G.]—Vide Philpot's Survey and Harvey's History of the County of Kent, under the head Southfleet Hooke, a parish in that county, the seat of the Swan family.

We are sorry we cannot find room for C. L.—for W. R. M.—for W. A. S.

To Z. A. We cannot ascertain any thing respecting Dr. Magin's announced Tales of the Talmud. Herbelot's Bibliothèque Orientale, valuable as it is, has not, as far as we know, been translated into English. A great portion of its matter, however, is to be found in Calmet and other authors. Steinhil's is, we believe, the only translation of the Talmud.

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27th July, 1869.

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